

# KENTON GAZETTE

Journal of Archaeology, Science, and Art.

N° 41—1856.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH.

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## REVIEWS.

*Handbook of Zoology. Vol. I.—Invertebrate Animals.* By J. Van der Hoeven, Professor of Zoology in the University of Leyden. Translated from the Second Dutch Edition by the Rev. William Clark, M.D., F.R.S., Professor of Anatomy in the University of Cambridge. Longman and Co.

*Lectures on the Comparative Anatomy and Physiology of the Invertebrate Animals.* Delivered at the Royal College of Surgeons by Richard Owen, F.R.S., Hunterian Professor. Second Edition. Van Voorst.

THE British zoological public have now before them two goodly summaries of the knowledge that has been acquired of the nature, affinities, and organization of the boneless, or invertebrate, animals, by two of the most distinguished and experienced zoological professors of their time—the one, Professor Owen, who for twenty years held the Hunterian Chair of Anatomy in the Royal College of Surgeons, which he has recently resigned for the direction of the natural history departments in the British Museum; the other, Professor Van der Hoeven, who has equally upheld the reputation of the Zoological Chair in the famous University of Leyden during the last thirty years. Both professors gave to the world, as a guide-book for their public teaching, a 'Manual of Invertebrate Zoology,' some fifteen or twenty years ago; and both have found it necessary to recast, and almost re-write, the much-enlarged editions cited at the head of this article, which the immense acquisitions—zoological and zootomical—during the intervening period had rendered obligatory upon the laborious and conscientious teachers.

The Dutch professor, animated by that instinct for exhaustive labour which led to his compatriot's opus magnum, "de omnibus rebus," with the "et quibusdam aliis" appendix, begins by a definition of nature in general. The more practical Englishman takes for granted that his readers possess a sufficient idea of this abstraction, and, after briefly defining organization and organic bodies, grapples at once with the first difficulty which a student meets in endeavouring clearly to comprehend the nature of an animal:—

"Nothing seems easier," says our Professor, "than to distinguish a plant from an animal, and in common practice, as regards the more obvious members of both kingdoms, no distinction is easier; yet, as the knowledge of their nature has advanced, the difficulty of defining them has increased, and seems now to be insuperable."

But availing himself of the true philosophic consolation which the case affords, the professor adds:—

"Not that the lack of such defining power is any loss to the naturalist, if he has gained instead a true conception of the fundamental unity of all organic nature."—(p. 2.)

Of all the subjects of comparative physiology, that of the mental workings of highly cultivated intellects is the highest and most interesting; and there can hardly be a fairer or clearer test of their respective powers than the art of "definition" as exercised by such minds. Van der Hoeven, after dealing with Nature in the abstract, and the distinction between Nature and the Universe, next proceeds to the primary division of Natural objects, and defines "Organic bodies" as

those in which "there prevails that mutual dependence between all the parts, of which, in the inorganic, we recognise no trace. In these last each of the parts exists for itself, and when separated from the whole does not cease to be the same that the whole was before."—(p. 3.) This seems to be a well-elaborated notion; our main business is with its truth. We proceed, accordingly, to apply this definition to the first classes of animals which the Dutch professor treats of. The *Amœba diffuens*, e.g., is described as a gelatinous mass, extending itself into irregular mutable lobes, and retracting them by a kind of general continuous motion; sometimes tearing itself asunder by such extension, "so that there arise two animals." (p. 46.) "What is the dependence, mutual or otherwise," a student might ask, "which exists between the parts of this shapeless and protean infusorial animal? and in what degree does each lobe less exist for itself than the corner of a crystal; or, when separated from the whole, less cease to be the same that the whole was before?" Troubled by the inapplicability of the preliminary definition of an organic body to the first invertebrate animal he finds described, he next proceeds to a higher class, and amongst the Polypi he finds it laid down that, with regard to some fresh-water kinds, "Trembley divided them longitudinally and transversely, and every piece formed a new animal." (p. 69.) Surely, then, urges his logical faculty, "these pieces, when so separated from the whole, did not cease to be the same that the whole was before," in the sense applied by the teacher to the parts of a mineral.

Break up a crystal, throw the pieces into a saturated solution of the same salt, each piece will reform the crystal agreeably with the polaric laws of its crystalline accretion; cut up a hydra, cast the pieces into water, and each piece will reproduce the hydra, agreeably with the laws of its organic growth.

Lichens and mosses, moreover, are "organisms." The perplexed neophyte remembers that, in cracking with his lately-acquired and liberally-applied geological hammer, during his maiden geological excursion, the lump of rock so beautifully painted by the bright orange *Parmelia parietina*, he divided the cellular plant into almost as many pieces as the mineral block; and he cannot permit himself to doubt, after what he learnt of lichens from his botanical teacher, that each part of the so-severed plant continued to exist for itself, to flourish amidst the storms and mists of the mountain, and that such part is now actually coating over the broken surface of the parts of the equally self-existing stone which was severed at the same time from the previous whole.

Now all this to the doubting and diffident scholar is as perplexing as it is provoking: he is almost on the point of the rebellious conclusion that there must be some flaw in the Dutchman's definition of an organism, and is only withheld from a prompt withdrawal of allegiance by the solemn preliminary protestation by the master, that—"from a definition all that is uncertain and hypothetical must be excluded as far as possible." (Van der Hoeven, p. 44.) The hesitation between stubborn facts and magisterial dicta is, moreover, maintained in his mind by the silence of the "translator" on this important point; for silence seems to give consent. If the quality of divisibility without destruction be predicated of inorganic bodies in a definition

of organic ones, it must be implied that such quality is one of the ways of knowing a body not to be organic. The severe mental training of a Cambridge professor seems a guarantee against any loose logic or defective definition escaping censure.

Still there are the stubborn facts of divisibility without destructibility, nay, with retained wholeness in the parts, as in the previous whole, in things which are admitted to be organisms and animals.

What says the English professor on this characteristic of Inorganic as contradistinguished from Organic entities? The tyro, thereupon, turns for such comfort as may be had by calling in another doctor, in this preliminary difficulty, to the English Manual. He finds nothing there about "divisibility," and its differential consequences; but he reads:—

"By organization is meant such an internal cellular, or celluloso-vascular structure, as relates to the reception of fluid matter, with the power of altering that matter and adding it to the alternative structure, the fluid being on that account called 'nutritive,' and the actions it is subjected to 'assimilation' and 'intus-susception.' As these acts are not explicable on any known chemical or mechanical principles, they are called 'vital' acts, and so long as they are continued the plant or animal is said 'to live.' A mineral or unorganized body can undergo no change, save by the operation of mechanical or chemical forces; and any increase of its bulk is due to the addition of like particles to its exterior,—it augments not by 'growth' but by 'accretion.'"—(Owen, p. 1.)

The more minutely the student scrutinizes the structure of the lichen, and compares it with that of the rock, the more he becomes convinced that its higher differential character depends upon its cellular structure, and its capacity of receiving into those cells, and altering by those cells, surrounding fluid, which it assimilates, and whereby it grows. The English definer meddles not with any consequence of division, or with any capacity of separability, with or without a self-existing power of the separated parts, in organized bodies; he practically excludes the uncertain and hypothetical from the one he gives, without professing how to make a definition perfect. He evidently means his definition to apply to the lichen, the rhizopod, and the polype, as well as to the highest organized bird or beast.

In fact, on referring to all that is written of the more simple infusoria and polypes in either manual, the student will find that whereas it agrees with the English definition of an organism, it does not square with the Dutch one.

Passing from the section on Organic and Inorganic Bodies to that on Plants and Animals, we find Van der Hoeven admitting, with Owen, the difficulty of distinguishing between them, but the Leyden professor offers the following remarks as helps to the student:—

"If we consider the nutrition, we perceive that animals convey their food, by one or more apertures, into a common cavity, the stomach or intestinal canal; from which the prepared matters are absorbed and applied to the nutrition of the whole body. Thus the intestinal canal is for animals what the soil and air are for plants. The plant is consequently so constructed that its surface has the greatest possible extension; in the animal all is contrived for union round the centre. Moreover the plant, which receives nutriment by means of its surface and the parts there situated, (pores, hairs, &c.) has no need to seek for food; it lives in the midst of its food; when this is deficient it can-

not move about, and must consequently die. The animal, on the contrary, is destined to seek its food, which it must conduct into its intestinal canal; it moves, therefore, when nutriment is deficient."—(Van der Hoeven, p. 6.)

But all this really applies only to those highly-developed and correspondingly well-marked forms of plants and animals that are recognised as such without difficulty; and for which recognition small help is felt, and less thanks given, for any aid derivable from definitions. The Hunterian professor seems to have realized the difficulty to be grappled with in regard to the distinctive character between plants and animals based upon the organs of nutrition, as being that which presents itself when a definition is attempted to be applied to such organisms as the free-parasitic *Gregarina*, and many of the locomotive infusoria which have no mouth nor alimentary canal. He remarks, also, that there is nothing that can properly be called stomach in the *Entozoa cestodea* :—

"The cellular parenchyme of tape-worms is traversed by canals more analogous in character to those which take the place of the digestive cavity in sponges. The sap vessels, and the whole system of intercellular spaces, with their outlets in the stomata, of plants, exhibit an analogous arrangement. Carbonic acid, the nutritive material in plants, passes through pores of the intercellular spaces, and is taken into the surrounding cells as formative material; just as albumen and the hydrates of carbon are introduced by the stomata of the tape-worm into the longitudinal canals, and pass through their pores into the surrounding cells; the same materials, in a coarser form, passing by the more obvious mouth into the wider digestive sacs of the higher animals. There is, here, no essential or well-defined distinction of assimilative structure; the difference is at most one of form and proportion of the internal cavities and their external openings. They are the same as to function in plants and animals. The more free and locomotive the organism the more capacious the internal receptacle for the matters to be assimilated, the characteristic differences of form fading away in the passage from the pendent parasites and the polypes to the astomatous polygastria, the sponges and plants proper. So that if the presence of absorbent pores and assimilative cells, instead of a mouth and stomach, be deemed a vegetable characteristic, then this, like the rooted character, mounts up a certain way into the animal kingdom."—(Owen, p. 3.)

The Leyden professor adduces, besides the mouth, stomach, and concomitant locomotive faculty, that of "independent motion excited by internal stimuli" (p. 6), as an animal characteristic, and remarks—"hence sensation is ascribed to animals." Conscious, however, that the most careful zootomy has failed to demonstrate in some animals a nervous system, he nevertheless ventures to assert :—

"But it does not, therefore, follow that these animals do not possess sensation, any more than it follows that their want of muscular fibre justifies us in denying to them voluntary motion, which the unprejudiced observer may recognise even in the most simple animals."—(Van der Hoeven, p. 6.)

If the want of any such power of insight into the precise character and physical cause of the movements of an *Amaba* be really a test of prejudice in an observer, we must plead guilty to it, trusting that our unconsciousness of the defect, or its involuntariness, may be taken as "extenuating circumstances."

Owen plainly confesses his inability to determine the voluntary character of movements even in animals with admitted nerves and muscles—the difficulty of drawing the

line between "reflex" and "volitional" actions evidently bars his seizing upon the *sponte se moventia* of Linnaeus as the distinguishing characteristic of animal life.

Dr. Carpenter has the same difficulty—"If we always possessed the means of determining where consciousness and spontaneity *do* and *do not* exist, we should have comparatively little difficulty in drawing a definite line of demarcation between 'plants' and 'animals.'"

"Ah! if we only had that power," sighs the student, struggling with this preliminary difficulty of knowing a plant from an animal; who then, perhaps, turning to the Hunterian professor's book for aid, meets with a "What if you had the power!" You would merely have a psychical character, which would, in all probability, prove to be as artificial a one as any of the supposed physiological, anatomical, or chemical distinctions, and which would but enable you to draw the boundary line as arbitrarily as by any other single character.

For say that we had such an insight into what goes on in the interior of a hydra or a flustra as to be able to say that the one creature felt and willed before it moved, and that the other did neither, but simply received an impression which was reflected upon a tissue that thereupon contracted without the animal being conscious of the phenomenon; should we satisfy any one, save Dr. Carpenter, by affirming that the hydra-polype was a plant, and the flustra-polype an animal?

But enough of these reflections, which have arisen out of a comparison, and an extremely instructive one, of the introductory chapters of the two works on Invertebrate Animals cited at the head of the present article.

If we have, thereby, formed a conclusion in our own minds of the logical or defining force of the minds of the respective professors, it does not follow that the one in whom it may be least developed should not compile a very useful manual of reference on Invertebrate Animals.

We are not conscious of any particular deficiency of this class of books in English zoological literature—not to mention the very complete works on the *Mollusca* (Forbes and Hanley), *Echinodermata* (Forbes), *Crustacea* (Bell), and *Zoophytes* (Johnston), of the British Islands, forming part of the admirable series of monographs on the Fauna Britannica, published by Mr. Van Voerst; we have English translations of the 'Elements of Natural History,' by Professor Milne Edwards; of the 'Handbook on Invertebrate Animals,' by Professor Siebold, as well as the original 'Lectures on the Comparative Anatomy of the Invertebrata,' by Professor Owen; and in the two last cited compendiums a very complete survey is taken of the results of the numerous memoirs and monographs scattered through the various scientific serials, and in the Transactions and Proceedings of learned societies.

The 'Elements of Natural History,' by Prof. Milne Edwards, commences—like the 'Règne Animal' of his great master, Cuvier, and like the 'Handbook of Natural History' of Blumenbach—with the highest species of animals, and proceeds in the descending course through the kingdom to the confines of the vegetable world. Professor Van der Hoeven, like Lamarck, Siebold, Owen, and most recent zoological authors, begins with

the lowest forms of animal life, and ascends to the highest in the invertebrate series, terminating, as in the 'Hist. Nat. des Anim. sans vertè.' and in the 'Hunterian Lectures,' with the *Cephalopoda*.

Prof. Van der Hoeven arranges the Invertebrate Animals into four great divisions or provinces, which he proposes (in a note, p. 36) to call—*Protozoa*, *Actinozoa*, *Ectinozoa*, and *Malacozoa*.

The *Protozoa* include the *Polygastria* of Ehrenberg, and the *Rhizopoda* of Dugardin. The *Actinozoa* include the *Polypi*, *Aculeata*, and *Echinodermata* of Cuvier. The *Ectinozoa* (from *ἐκτείνω*, *extendo*, in reference to the prevalence of the elongated form of body) are almost equivalent to the *Articulata* of the 'Règne Animal,' but include the *Entozoa*, *Rotifera*, *Epizoa*, and *Cirripedia*, the two latter classes being made subordinate groups of the *Crustacea*. The *Malacozoa* are the *Cuvierian Mollusca*, minus the *Cirripedia*.

As naturalists seem to be now agreed that every group above the species is a mere mode of human thought—an intellectual abstraction framed to facilitate man's comprehension of the multifarious creatures beneath him in the living scale: wherefore, those artificial series are perhaps the best that admit of the clearest and best marked definitions. Draw the line where one will between genus and genus, family and family, order and order, or class and class—such a line, as Owen contends, in reference to plants and animals, must be an arbitrary boundary; at best, it is expressive of the value which the classifier attaches to such or such a character. Thus when Owen separates the *Cirripeds* from the *Crustacea*, and when Van der Hoeven unites them in the same class, we have the expression of the value which the two authors respectively attach to the character derivable from the presence or absence of distinct branchia, coupled with certain generic phenomena.

When both Van der Hoeven and Owen unite the *Myriapoda* with the *Insecta*, they thereby express their sense of the importance of the tracheal respiration as a class-character, and of the hexapod stage of metamorphosis, as contrasted with the opposite opinions on those characters entertained by the zoologists who, with Siebold, rank the *Myriapods* with the *Crustacea*.

When both Owen and Van der Hoeven associate the *Bryozoa* with other *Polypes*, they signify their opinion of the value of the ciliated gemmule state of the ciliobrachiate embryo, and of the absence of the branchial organ, without thereby suppressing the adequate statement of the affinities of the *Bryozoa* to the inferior *Mollusca*. A narrow mind, incapable of appreciating the real value and philosophical meaning of such groupings, attaches immense importance to the transfer of an osculant group of animals from one wider assemblage to another, between which such minor group may stand, and plumes itself on its superior perspicacity in making such trivial change; challenging the world the while to "write me down an ass," if the world can; said world, for the most part, being scandalously indifferent to such appeals.

And in regard to the question of transferring the ciliobrachiate *Polypes* of Farre from the Radiated to the Molluscan series, we would conclude this notice by recommending to the attention of those who attach importance to that movement, the following passage :—

"Most of the classes in the lowest division of

\* 'Principles of Physiology, General and Comparative,' 8vo, 1841, p. 182.



the Invertebrata lead, by more or less gentle gradations, into those of the higher ones. Nor is this surprising: the radiated animals are closely analogous to the embryo forms of the higher classes; and as the earlier stages of such embryos succeed each other more rapidly than the later ones, so also each class of the *Acrata* more closely approximates some class of the *Nematoneura* than is observed in the classes of the higher groups, and the characters of the lowest or acrite classes are the least definite and fixed."—(Owen, p. 15.)

In both Manuals on the Invertebrate Animals, now available to the English reader, an account of the anatomy, physiology, generation, and metamorphoses of the several classes is prefixed to the zoological characters of the subordinate groups in that class. But the proportions of the zootomical and purely zoological divisions are reversed; in Owen's 'Lectures' the Zootomy predominates, in Van der Hoeven's 'Handbook' the Zoology forms the largest share.

There is one feature in the Hunterian professor's volume which the beginner or student will feel the want of in the Dutch professor's Manual—viz., the 'Glossary,' or explanation of the technical, anatomical, and other scientific terms which inevitably abound in works on natural history.

The venerable Professor of Anatomy in the University of Cambridge has executed his labour of translation of the Dutch treatise with praiseworthy care and fidelity. We thank him for giving, to the great proportion of English naturalists unacquainted with Low Dutch, this opportunity of testing the intellectual characteristics of the most able of the zoological professors of a Netherlands university.

*The Life and Correspondence of Sir John Malcolm, G.C.B., late Envoy to Persia and Governor of Bombay.* From Unpublished Letters and Journals. By John William Kaye. Smith, Elder, and Co.

[Second Notice.]

AMONGST the questions of vital interest which were agitating Government House, at the time when Malcolm was appointed private secretary to Lord Wellesley, July 1801, the state of Oude was the most urgent. In consequence of the irregularities and mismanagement which prevailed in the country of the Nabob-Wuzeer, Lord Wellesley had determined to insist upon the cession of a certain tract of territory, producing a million and a quarter sterling, instead of the annual subsidy paid under treaty. Mr. Henry Wellesley had been sent forward to Lucknow to negotiate the cession, and the Governor-General was preparing to follow. A visit to Upper India, especially under such auspices, was highly gratifying to Malcolm. The journey was to be made by water, in a fleet of boats, the Governor-General's yacht at their head. The whole party embarked in August. Malcolm, however, whose destiny seems to have been perpetual action, was not permitted to enjoy this luxurious voyage to its conclusion, but was despatched in December to Madras, on a special mission, having for its main object the detention for some time longer in India of Lord Clive, who was at that moment on the point of embarking for England. There is nothing more striking in these Indian histories than the perpetual conflicts and intrigues which seem to have been going on between the local authorities and the home authorities, the latter being, in like manner, divided against themselves, issuing conflicting orders,

and seeking, by a variety of courses, to overreach each other. How British India grew up to what it is under such distracted councils is a marvel, for which there is no parallel in the history of the world. Our space will not allow us to enter into the personal contentions connected with Malcolm's mission to Madras. It is enough to record here, that he succeeded in prevailing on Lord Clive to remain another year in India, and that when he returned to his secretaryship his conduct was approved by the Governor-General.

It may be presumed from the kind of employment in which we find Malcolm constantly engaged under Lord Wellesley, that he must have possessed peculiar qualities for the duties of negotiation—vigour, discernment, knowledge of men, reserve, patience, and discretion; yet we gather from the details of his most important missions that he was rather deficient in some of these qualities, while the openness and candour invariably ascribed to him by his biographer would seem to be inconsistent with the reticence and reserve indispensable to the diplomatist. His activity, courage, and knowledge of men, especially of the natives of India, appear to be admitted on all hands; but we certainly should not infer from the haste with which he abandoned his second mission to Persia, that his patience or his discretion could always be reckoned upon. Lord Wellesley, however, who was in daily intercourse with him, and who was an excellent judge of merit, although occasionally biassed by strong personal attachments, thought so highly of Malcolm's diplomatic talents, that the secretary's position at this time, as Mr. Kaye observes, might be properly described as that of his lordship's ambassador-general. Whenever any embarrassment arose, or any delicate or difficult work was to be done, the immediate resource was to "send Malcolm." He was always thought of on such occasions—a fact much more conclusive of his abilities as a negotiator than any speculations founded on his general character.

He had not long rejoined the Governor-General after the Madras mission, when he was "sent" to Bombay on a much graver business. The Persian ambassador, who was on his way to obtain the ratification of the treaties that had been negotiated by Malcolm, was unhappily shot in an affray, which took place before his own door in Bombay, between some of his own retinue and a few English sepoy, one of the latter of whom accidentally shot him as he came out to quell the tumult. This unfortunate affair created a profound sensation in India. "The strongest minds," says Mr. Kaye, "were shaken. Even Lord Wellesley for a time was stunned and stupefied. A general gloom hung over the Presidency. Some spoke of the danger, some of the disgrace." It was the danger, we apprehend, rather than the disgrace—which is by no means obvious—that must have occasioned so much consternation;—the danger of misrepresentation and exaggeration, and of the consequences which might have resulted from the resentment of the Persian court, fanned into a flame by French councils. Malcolm was clearly the fittest man in India to be employed to avert a rupture with Persia; and he entirely succeeded by the prudent and, it may be added, costly measures he adopted. He appeased Persian anger by English presents and English annuities. He bought up the whole family of the

ambassador, and may be said to have bribed even the Shah himself. "All were satisfied," says Mr. Kaye, "from the King on his throne to the humblest of the defunct Elchee's retainers." The whole affair is curiously illustrative of Oriental morals and usages, and affords us a passing hint of the comparative value placed upon human life and gold in the East. The death of the ambassador "was not regarded as a national outrage," observes Mr. Kaye, "but as a debt contracted by us, which money-payments might promptly discharge; and it was said soon afterwards at Shiraz, that the English might kill ten ambassadors if they would pay for them at the same rate."

We next find Malcolm (1803) appointed to take charge of the Residency at Mysore; and in the Mahratta war which ensued, and in which he took a conspicuous part, he again met Arthur Wellesley. They had not seen each other since they had parted at Seringapatam, and in the interval both had been actively employed. General Wellesley was in command of the advanced force, which Malcolm had now joined in his diplomatic character, and it was soon determined between them that they should work together. Throughout his life Malcolm held to the maxim, which upon this occasion he thus expressed in his official correspondence:—"A political agent is never so likely to succeed as when he negotiates at the head of an army." The maxim is, probably, sound in India, or was sound in Malcolm's day; but it must be taken with large exceptions in a general sense.

Malcolm's position with the army seems to have been, as usual, anomalous. Officially he was merely Resident at Mysore; but he had particular instructions from Lord Wellesley, which, without defining his duties, cast a heavy burthen of responsibility upon him, much aggravated by illness. It would have been almost impossible, under such a combination of circumstances, to escape censure, and Malcolm incurred a reproof from his chief for not maintaining a closer and more constant correspondence concerning the state and movements of the army. From this onerous position he was temporarily relieved, by being compelled to leave the camp in consequence of his increasing sickness. He rapidly recovered, and immediately upon rejoining the camp was appointed to negotiate a subsidiary treaty with the Maharajah Rao Scindiah. He had scarcely, however, concluded a treaty, and forwarded it to the Governor-General, than the possibility that Lord Wellesley might disapprove of it began to loom upon his mind. At this point, Mr. Kaye gives us some insight into the difficulties of an ambassador doing the behest of the supreme government at some remote native court:—

"The position of an envoy at such a court as Scindiah's, with limited powers and great responsibilities, at an immense distance from the seat of government, compelled to shape his measures in accordance with circumstances rather than with principles, and yet knowing that the superior authorities are disposed to try them by the touchstone of theories which cannot be applied to them without error and without injustice, is an embarrassing and unenviable one."

Malcolm escaped censure on this occasion by mere accident. It so happened that Lord Wellesley did disapprove of certain articles of the treaty, and never would have ratified them; but, luckily, they were omitted by



Malcolm before he was aware of the Governor-General's objections, and the treaty, as executed, was fully approved. Although his special mission to the court of Scindiah was now over, Malcolm remained at the Durbar, there being yet many questions to settle, and amongst them the determination of the limits of the possessions to be held under the treaty of peace by Scindiah, by the lesser chiefs, and by the Company. Out of these questions arose what is well known in India as the great Gwalior controversy. How Malcolm stood affected in this discussion will sufficiently appear from the following passage:—

"There was sharp contention about Gwalior. All that remains of Mahratta power in India is now indissolubly associated in men's minds with thoughts of this famous fortress. There are few living who have known it as any thing else but the home of the Scindiah family, and the capital of their remaining empire. But half a century ago there was a conflict among the chief British authorities as to the right of the Maharajah to possess himself of the place. The question is even now a perplexing one. Even the clear, strong head of Arthur Wellesley could not solve the entangled problem to his own or to others' satisfaction. He oscillated between two opinions. Malcolm was strong in his conviction, and nothing shook it, that justice and policy alike demanded that the fortress should be given up to Scindiah. And the Governor-General declared that justice did not require us to surrender the place, whilst sound policy imperatively called upon us to keep it out of Scindiah's hands."

Malcolm had already committed himself on the subject of Gwalior with Scindiah's ministers, before he was aware of Lord Wellesley's views. He had acted, not only on his own strong conscientious convictions, but he believed that he was acting in concurrence with the opinions of General Wellesley. Lord Wellesley, highly indignant at a course being taken so utterly opposed to his policy, expressed his extreme displeasure with Malcolm in the official correspondence that ensued; but the most remarkable testimony of his dissatisfaction appeared in a circumstance which, probably, never became known to Malcolm. In one of his private letters to Edmonstone (all of which were shown to the Governor-General), Malcolm had written, "God knows, throughout the whole of this troubled scene my attention has been exclusively directed to one object—the promotion of the public interests." Lord Wellesley, underscoring the last two words, wrote the following note in the margin:—"Mr. Malcolm's duty is to obey my orders, and to enforce my instructions. I will look after the public interests." The anecdote is highly characteristic of the energetic statesman, who, by the vigour of his administration, acquired the title of the Pacificator of India.

Malcolm was at last relieved from his painful position by the arrival of the Resident appointed to Scindiah's court; and retiring in shattered health to Mysore he turned his thoughts to a life of literary leisure, the first great result of which was to have been a History of Persia. But he was not allowed to indulge this pleasant dream. The Governor-General could not dispense with his services, and in April, 1805, summoned him to Calcutta, where he was again called to assist in the councils of the Government. The state of our relations with Holkar and Scindiah was the problem under immediate consideration; and if it had not been that Lord Wellesley, whose policy had been constantly thwarted by opposition at home, was about to return to England, there can be little doubt that another war

must have speedily followed. At such a crisis, however, Lord Wellesley was naturally unwilling to initiate a contest over the conduct and issues of which he could exercise no control; and accordingly it was resolved that negotiations should be opened with a view to a pacific adjustment. Instead of crushing Scindiah, as some advisers recommended, and as, under different circumstances, he might have been disposed to do, Lord Wellesley resorted to his never-failing alternative, and "sent" Malcolm to negotiate. Joining Lord Lake's army on the banks of the Chumbul, Malcolm was received with a hearty welcome, not less on account of his popular qualities, than because he was "believed to be at the head of the war party." This was in May or June, 1805, and Lord Wellesley was expected to leave Calcutta in the following August or September. The actual cause of his retirement is succinctly summed up in a letter from Malcolm, written at this time to General Wellesley:—

"Unfortunately, the controlling authorities look more to temporary than permanent objects, and who dare prefer the public interest to their views? Lord Wellesley has ventured to do so, and failed. He is obliged to retire because ministers plainly tell him they cannot support him in measures which, though calculated to promote the good of his country, are not approved by the Court of Directors."

At Lord Lake's head-quarters Malcolm met Charles Metcalfe for the first time, and the young Bengal civilian is described as "kindling under the charms of his new friend, and thinking he has found one whose footsteps he may safely follow." They canvas the character of Lord Wellesley, perfectly agree in their admiration of his policy, and carry their enthusiasm so far that they are half inclined to accompany him back to England, and earnestly discuss between themselves whether they shall do so or not. "Fifteen years afterwards," says Mr. Kaye, "when both were in high place, Malcolm reminded Metcalfe of the days when they paced together the tent at Muttra, and built castles in the air."

The next incident in this rapid drama was the arrival of Lord Cornwallis. He, of course, represented the "retrograde policy," and the whole system of his predecessor was to be reversed. Malcolm was thus placed in a painful position, in consequence of his devotion to the person and principles of Lord Wellesley; but with the tact of an accomplished diplomatist, he adapted himself to circumstances, and gave in his adhesion to the new administration. When he wrote, however, to Lord Cornwallis in the September of this year, placing his zeal and services at his disposal, in answer to a letter in which his lordship explained generally the principles upon which he intended to conduct the Administration, Malcolm was not aware that Lord Cornwallis contemplated the total abandonment of those territories in Upper India which had been secured to us by the victories of Wellesley and Lake. But the discovery of this design did not alter his views with respect to his own line of conduct. "I am satisfied," he wrote at this juncture to Lord Wellesley, "that I shall best discharge my duty to your lordship and the public by maintaining my post as long as I can with honour to myself and advantage to my country." It was deeply to be deplored that Lord Wellesley had not remained even a few weeks longer in the country, to place it out of the power of

Lord Cornwallis to accomplish his views. "Had your lordship continued in India until December," continues Malcolm, "I cannot doubt but that you would have dictated a peace that would have secured the permanent tranquillity of India; but I tremble at what may be the result of the present system. Our moderation will be everywhere termed fear, and our generosity weakness."

The dilemma in which Malcolm was placed turned out to be of short duration; and he was soon relieved from the necessity of either acting against his conscience or throwing up his employment, by the death of Lord Cornwallis, which took place in the ensuing October. In this emergency, the duties of the Government devolved upon Sir George Barlow, to whom Malcolm at once made a tender of his services. All this time he was at Lake's camp, rendering important services in procuring money for the army, conducting the correspondence of the brave old formalist General, negotiating with the slippery Scindiah, giving audiences to the agents of the Sikh chiefs from both sides of the Sutlej, and helping by the aid of his energy and his councils to hunt down the robber Holkar. At last, after great toils and difficulties, which are most graphically delineated in these volumes, peace was finally concluded, and Malcolm had the satisfaction of finding that his conduct in the management of these intricate affairs was highly approved by the veteran Lake in India, and by Arthur Wellesley in England, although he had the misfortune occasionally to fall under the reproach of Sir George Barlow.

The whole of this year's proceedings with the army in Upper India, and the relations of Malcolm with his immediate superiors, and of the supreme government with the two Governments at home—for two Governments they were to all intents and purposes—reveal most clearly the complicated misrule under which India laboured in those days. There were so many puppets, and so many wires dragging at them at the same moment, that it was wholly impossible to carry out with energy or consistency any distinct course of policy, or for a man of high principle to execute his duties honestly and conscientiously. Edmonstone, whose official position at this period of private secretary compelled him to express opinions and convey rebukes which cut severely against the grain of his convictions and feelings, declares himself in a letter to Malcolm heart-broken by the exigencies of his situation. Alluding to the dissatisfaction with Malcolm's labours he had been obliged sometimes to convey as the medium of Sir George Barlow's views, he adds:—

"I well know that it has cost me, in a great degree, the loss of your regard and esteem. Painful as is this reflection, I do not consider myself entitled to complain. I submit to it, as to other evils of my situation, which have long been a source of anguish to my mind, and which have totally alienated it from this country and all that belongs to it, with the exception of the friends which it contains. My chief anxiety is now to quit a condition which I can no longer endure with comfort. My spirits are, indeed, quite broken. I long for the period of my release with a degree of eagerness which I cannot express."

We have not space to enter into Indian politics. But we may remark, in passing, that the immediate question upon which Sir George Barlow had expressed his dissatisfaction with Malcolm, had reference to the

freedom with which Malcolm protested against the policy pursued towards our ally, the Rajah of Jyepore, who, after having aided us in the war, was utterly abandoned by the supreme government to the enemies he had then raised up against himself. Malcolm condemned this breach of good faith not only in his own name, but in that of Lord Lake, who, finding all remonstrances useless, begged to be at once relieved from his political duties. Malcolm clung to the doctrine which he and Arthur Wellesley had long before maintained under circumstances not very dissimilar, that "good faith, even towards the weakest of allies, was paramount over every other consideration." It was mere waste of time to urge such maxims as these upon a government that was solely guided by the expediency of the hour; and so this wrong was perpetrated, and the British honour tarnished. "This is the first measure of the kind," wrote Malcolm, "that the English have ever taken in India, and I trust in God it will be the last." What would he have written had he lived till the present time?

The interval of repose which followed the close of hostilities brought with it that change in Malcolm's condition which, sooner or later, happens to nearly all men. At Madras he fell in love with Miss Charlotte Campbell, daughter of Colonel Alexander Campbell, of the 74th Regiment, who subsequently rose to the command of the Madras army; and to that lady, in whom, says our biographer, "were united the charms of youth and beauty with a good natural understanding and a cultivated mind," he was married on the 4th of July, 1807. There had been some talk, just before, of a Turkish expedition, upon which Malcolm had repeatedly offered his services; but, says Mr. Kaye, significantly, the plan was now "folded up!"

But rest was not for Malcolm under any circumstances. His new position was only a fresh incentive to exertion. He looked eagerly round for occupation; and in India, especially in such unsettled times, there is never wanting a field of action for men of vigour and ability. And at this very period a scene which promised ample employment was dimly opening in the distance. The increasing influence of the French in the East had long been a subject of grave consideration to our Indian statesmen, and it had lately assumed dimensions from which nothing less than an invasion was anticipated. To check any advance from the west, Lord Minto, the new Governor-General, determined upon sending out three distinct missions to the Punjab, Afghanistan, and Persia. Malcolm was selected for the last, being, undoubtedly, in all respects the fittest man to represent the supreme government on such an occasion in that country. From the very outset an official perplexity hung like a dark cloud over this undertaking. The "crown" which, in all Indian transactions in those days, exercised its authority wholly independently of the local government, and pursued its own course, whenever it saw fit to do so, wholly irrespective of the advice or proceedings of the Governor-General in council, had already commissioned an ambassador with full powers to the Shah, in the person of Sir Harford Jones. Here, then, were two separate ambassadors from the same power—a contingency obviously calculated to disturb the equanimity of Persia, and to lower in her eyes the reputation of

England. Fortunately, however, the two envoys did not interfere with each other on this occasion. Malcolm had the start of his rival, and Jones prudently remained behind to await the issue. It was soon made known. The mission totally failed. The French had firmly established their influence at Teheran, and Malcolm, offended at being required to conduct his negotiations with the Prince Regent of the province of Fars, instead of being allowed to proceed direct to the capital, struck his camp, and took ship for Calcutta. Mr. Kaye thinks that he acted too precipitately; and the same opinion seems to have been held by Sir James Macintosh, who expressed it in a passage well worth preserving on other grounds.

"I have always thought," observes Mr. Kaye, "that Malcolm erred in assuming too dictatorial a tone at the outset, and precipitating a crisis which it would have been sounder policy to delay. But the error is one which we may well afford to respect. 'You are a man of frank character and high spirit,' wrote Sir James Macintosh to him, on learning the course he had adopted, 'accustomed to represent a successful and triumphant government. You must, from nature and habit, be averse to temporize. But you have much too powerful an understanding to need to be told that to temporize is sometimes absolutely necessary, and that men of your character only can temporize with effect.'"

We have marked the last observation in italics, for the sake of its profound truth, and its wider application. The failure of the mission, we cannot help thinking, was not wholly, scarcely, perhaps, even in part, to be attributed to the tone taken by Malcolm. Its causes seem to us to have lain deeper, since it showed plainly enough—firstly, that the former mission had not been productive of any practical effect in establishing a friendship with the Shah; and, secondly, that by our apathy and neglect towards Persia in the interval, we had permitted the French to obtain an ascendancy over us at the court.

On his former mission to Persia, Malcolm's attention had been drawn to the island of Karrack, in the Persian Gulf, and he had repeatedly expressed his anxiety to obtain a settlement upon it for the British Government. His conviction that our interests would be greatly advanced by the occupation of such a post was revived upon passing the island again on his return to Calcutta from his second mission, and he earnestly urged the measure upon the consideration of Lord Minto and his colleagues. As the subject possesses special interest at the present moment, in consequence of the claim to the possession of the island just set up by the French, under a treaty now for the first time spoken of, a few details about the place, and Malcolm's plans for its occupation, will be acceptable to our readers:—

"The more I contemplate this island," writes Malcolm, in his journal on board ship, "the more I am satisfied it might be made one of the most prosperous settlements in Asia, situated within a few hours' sail of Bushire, Bunder Beg, Bussorah, Grene, Baberin, and Catiff. It would, if under a just and powerful government, be the common resort of the merchants of Turkey, Arabia, and Persia, and though too small (only twelve square miles) to support a number of inhabitants, it would, when it became an emporium of commerce, become a granary also, and want would be unknown. The chief recommendations of this island are its fine climate and excellent water. It has no harbour; but a vessel has protection from the prevalent gales in the gulf under either its south-east or north-west side, and they can shift their berth in the hardest gales without danger. I could not

contemplate this island without thinking it far from improbable that the English Government might be obliged, by the progress of its enemies in this quarter, to take possession of it, and my mind passed rapidly from that idea to the contemplation of myself as the chief instrument in the execution of this plan. I saw this almost desolate island filled with inhabitants, whose prosperity and happiness was my charge, and who repaid all my labours by their gratitude and attachment; but what most delighted me in this picture was the figure of Charlotte smiling graciously upon me from a window of one of the most stately castles that my fancy had erected on the shores of Karrack. More improbable dreams have been realized, and there can be no harm in indulging the imagination in the contemplation of a scheme which has its foundations in the most virtuous and justifiable ambition; which seeks not to destroy, but to establish; not to invade security, but to give repose; not to attack, but to defend; and instead of spreading the evils of war, wishes only to erect a bulwark to stop its ravages."

Although he thus treated the matter romantically in his journal, seeing in the distance, to quote his biographer, "a lordly castle, himself the lord of the isle, and his lady-love looking out of a window, and smiling approval upon his acts," he made a serious business of it when he arrived in Calcutta, and had an opportunity of submitting his plans to Lord Minto. His enthusiasm, and, above all, his conviction that if we could establish ourselves securely in the island of Karrack, it would effectually strengthen us against all enemies in that direction, at last made so deep an impression upon Lord Minto and his colleagues, that, although they did not embrace all his suggestions, they agreed to the general outline of his plan, and, says Mr. Kaye—

"Malcolm was day after day busily occupied in the congenial work of arranging and organizing the details of the military establishment, which was to garrison the island under his command, and threaten all the enemies of Great Britain in Persia, Arabia, and Eastern Turkey."

The array of arguments brought forward by Malcolm in support of his plan was considered so cogent, that Lord Minto fully authorised him to carry his design into execution:—

"The authority was but little in advance of the execution. Malcolm's preparations were soon completed. His paper-army was in his portfolio; his plans and estimates were cut and dried; his staff was already selected. The mere flesh and blood of his force was to be picked up at Bombay, but all else was matured at Calcutta. He himself was in high spirits. He was to have the supreme military and political authority in the Gulf; and he started with the assured belief that he enjoyed the unlimited confidence of the supreme Government."

The scheme itself, in whatever light we view it, was a singular one; and it seems especially so in reference to a man whose antecedents eminently justified a higher and nobler ambition than that of becoming lord of twelve square miles, granting even all the problematical issues Malcolm anticipated from its establishment. He was, nevertheless, highly elated at the prospect that lay before him; but the least attractive feature of which was the fact, that he was to be completely master of the situation, and to judge for himself and the Government what was best to be done, and not to be done. The very perils of the undertaking fascinated him; and he was charmed when Lord Minto said to him, "Your duties, General Malcolm, are, however, not defined. All I can say is, you are placed in a situation where you are



as likely to go wrong from prudence as from the want of it."

With these unlimited hopes and expectations, he embarked at Bombay for the Persian Gulf in the beginning of October, 1808. As his frigate dropped down the river, his mind was full of visions of the great future that lay before him; but the old proverb of the cup and the lip was doomed to be illustrated on this occasion. When he was approaching Kedgerie, an express-boat came alongside. It carried a letter to him from the Governor-General. The first paragraph, as his eye ran eagerly over the contents, foreshadowed the result. He was recalled to Calcutta!

The cause of this sudden revolution in the views of Lord Minto is easily explained. Sir Harford Jones had resolved to go to Persia, and as the Governor-General felt that it was indispensable to afford him time for his mission, and that the expedition to Karrack might interfere with its progress, no alternative remained but to recall Malcolm. The following passage briefly explains the whole difficulty, as it presented itself to Lord Minto's mind:—

"In this interval Karrack must necessarily be suspended. We cannot commit hostilities on Persia, while the King of England is negotiating with the King of Persia."

We must here terminate for the present, to resume and conclude our notice of this work in our next.

*The Paragreens on a visit to the Paris Universal Exhibition.* By the Author of 'Lorenzo Benoni,' &c. Constable and Co.

THE English painted by themselves are generally more absurd and foolish, and less amusing, than the English painted by others. A native undoubtedly ought to know the peculiarities of his countrymen; yet his familiarity with the original, so far from enabling him to produce a faithful likeness, only helps, in incompetent hands, to make the portrait at once ridiculous and dull. A stranger has at least the advantage of being struck by points to which we have ourselves become indifferent by daily use, and thus some characteristic traits are seized and preserved, which might otherwise escape altogether. An Englishman, drawn by a Frenchman, is a caricature, in which the well-known attributes—the phlegm, the sullen isolation, the love of comfort, the vulgar ostentation—are all exaggerated, and sundry particulars which we, to the manner born, know to be trivial, are advanced to prominence; but the extravagance is, nevertheless, so skilfully constructed, and presents so many grotesque features, that, in spite of its mistakes and excesses, the sketch has at all events the merit of being lively and entertaining. So much certainly cannot be predicated of a similar picture taken at home. It is usually heavy and monotonous, follows in the track of worn-out traditions instead of exploring new paths, and is very often lugubrious and dreary where, as in the class to which these remarks especially refer, it is intended to expose the weak and ludicrous aspects of the national character.

The story of the Paragreens illustrates, with rather more than average ability, the ordinary manner in which the English are painted by themselves, when the object is to depict their absurdities and foibles. Mr. Paragreen is a citizen who has made a fortune in the "cork-trade," and retires, as a matter of course, and

as tens of thousands of citizens in stories of this description have retired, "to enjoy his *otium*," &c., at Eden Villa, Peckham, where he sets up "a man in livery and a boy in buttons, a double-bodied phaeton and great grey horse." The experienced reader at once foresees from this start what is to follow. Mr. Paragreen is a straightforward, plain, practical man, "an unpretending chap, with no nonsense about him;" but Mrs. Paragreen—we need not describe her. She was a Joliffe of Hackney, and it is quite unnecessary to intimate who they were. Her father—the Joliffe—was a retired drysalter, who had fixed his *otium* at Hackney; and she had a cousin, a real living Alderman Joliffe, who might one day be Lord Mayor. Such magnificent antecedents and connexions have their inevitable effect upon this stereotyped character. Proud of her relationship to an alderman, and proud, above all, of being a Joliffe, she affects fine breeding, apes the manners of fashionable life, and thinks her husband a fool. An Englishwoman of this stamp is like one of Plato's half-existences, and cannot be considered complete till she is provided with her other half, in the shape of a grand neighbour, to excite her envy, and stimulate her passion for display. Accordingly we have a Mrs. Jones, of Creeper's Lodge, the wealthy widow of a tallow merchant, who fulfils something of the function of the Fate of Greek tragedy. The introduction of this lady is a transparent device, to which we resign ourselves as to a sort of necessity. She has nothing whatever to do with the narrative, and never even appears upon the scene, and is created solely that the author may now and then pronounce her name to awaken the emulative spirit of Mrs. Paragreen, just as nurses in the good old times used to cry out Bugaboo! to frighten children.

The externals agree accurately with the social and moral conditions of this pattern couple. Mr. Paragreen is short, fussy, oily, and lively (in his peculiar self-satisfied way); dresses from head to foot in a "yellow-greenish stuff," and wears a flat, low-crowned, green hat. Mrs. Paragreen, on the contrary, is tall, vast, and portly; dresses showily, with a profusion of streamers and jewellery, and holds her head high up in the air, like a certain domestic bird which is distinguished more by its vanity than its sense. If we add to these figures Miss Ida Paragreen, domestically called Da, about twenty, large eyes, clear complexion, and an imposing figure, rendered still more conspicuous by the aid of crinoline; Master Tom, Tobo, in the family nomenclature, a strong, wilful lad of seventeen, in jacket, cap, and half-boots, the high backs of which always protrude beyond his trousers; and two smaller female specimens, described by the author as having "a general resemblance to bantam chickens, with befrilled little legs," we have the entire party as they set out from their villa at Peckham, for Paris, to see the Exhibition. From the moment they get into the crowded waiting-room at the Boulogne station, we see that they are destined to a succession of small calamities; that Mrs. Paragreen is appointed under a special dispensation to worry her husband by divers questions implying distrust of his sense, his knowledge of mankind, his acquaintance with the French language, and his want of "gentility;" and that Mr. Paragreen, with the best intentions, is doomed always to commit the most foolish blunders, and to be egregiously cheated and laughed at,

especially in those practical matters which directly compromise his sagacity—the one quality upon which he pertinaciously plumes himself.

The adventures of the Paragreens are all throughout of this description. Mr. Paragreen, in his fuss to be the first to secure places in the train, is separated from his family; and when at last they arrive at their destination, he is so determined not to be imposed upon by the hotel-keepers, that the whole party are obliged to sleep all night in hired carriages in the streets, at a greater cost than he refused to pay for apartments. We need not relate the *contretemps* and mortifications that happen to them every day—how they mistake a bazaar for the Exhibition; and how, having taken shelter during a shower of rain in a temporary tavern, without raising their hats on entering, they get into what the Americans call a "difficulty." The incidents are of the usual kind; and the speciality, if there be any in the book, must be looked for in the treatment. Here is a sample of the Paragreens out for the evening, and enjoying themselves in the Place de la Concorde. They are examining the obelisk:—

"Mr. Paragreen brought up all sail, standing to calculate how many inches higher or lower than the monument of London it might be; scrutinizing the characters and figures inscribed on the granite with so knowing an air, that the still sulky Mrs. Paragreen asked him whether he wished to make the passers-by believe that he understood 'heroglyphs.' 'Heroglyphs,' corrected Mr. Paragreen, sedately. 'Herro, or hero, doesn't much signify,' retorted Mrs. Paragreen, tartly, 'it ends in *ph*, I know.'"

Mr. Paragreen thinks the place very pleasant, and the company rather aristocratic, they are so well-dressed; but Mrs. Paragreen cannot see either the French grace or beauty people talk of, and is of opinion that the hackney-coaches spoil the "coupe d'oil." She calls the Grand Duchess of Baden the Grand Duchess of Bagdad, and the Hôtel de la Cigogne the Seegong. These are examples of Paragreen French.

At the *table d'hôte* of their hotel they become acquainted with a swindler who passes himself off as a Prince, and who, for a bribe, undertakes to get the Paragreens presented at Versailles. This little matter is managed by the swindler's confederate, who personates the rôle of a secretary; and in the interview that takes place, we have another striking specimen of the educational *status* of the Joliffes of Hackney:—

"Are you an admirer of cameos? The query is put to Mrs. Paragreen, who, rather startled by it, replies, 'Yes—that is—not particularly—I don't like the great bunches on their backs.'"

"The secretary, startled in his turn,—'Ha! I see,—I don't mean camels, but cameos, rare stones worked in *relievo*,' &c."

In addition to the bribe of 25*l.*, the secretary succeeds in obtaining from his easy dupes a subscription of eight guineas to a pretended charity:—

"Yes, eight pounds eight shillings, to which, perhaps, it might be agreeable to you," insinuates the secretary, "to add the sum, the figure of which I had the honour to communicate confidentially."

"By all means!" said Mrs. Paragreen, swallowing the bait. Indeed, had she not done so, she must have been made of stone, so temptingly was the hook dressed.—"Since you will have it so, let it be so," continued the gentleman in black, with a bow of resignation. "Your little debt will then amount to—25 and 8 makes 33—just 33*l.* 8*s.*—can it be so much?—yes, I am right



—33l. 8s. Mr. Paragreen, with a rather wry face, tendered 35l. in bank notes, and received back 32 shillings in French money. This business transacted, the smiling glossy visitor patted Emma and Arabella on the head, and, bowing his adieu to the rest, took himself and the 33l. 8s. most serenely away."

A dinner at the Café Corazza affords another opportunity of illustrating the humour which is supposed to reside in the development of Cockney ignorance:—

"The waiter handed Mr. Paragreen the printed 'Carte du Restaurant,' a pencil and a slip of paper. 'Pourquoi?' asked the Englishman, staring at the three articles. 'Pour écrire le menu de votre dîner, Monsieur,' answered the waiter, and disappeared. 'Let us see,' said Mr. Paragreen. 'Bless my soul! what a confusion—Potages à la Julienne—au riz—au vermicelle—aux macaroni'—'Faugh!' cried Mrs. Paragreen, in disgust.) 'Bisque aux écrevisses—what do you say to that?'—good—we'll put it down then. Shall we have 'angouilles à la tartare?' 'What is that?' said Mrs. Paragreen. 'Why, I don't know—it looks like rain in print.' 'Suppose it's only another name for frog.' 'Oh, frogs, my dear, have only one name, green owls, you know.'"

At last they make out a bill, but omit the *roti*, upon which the waiter inquires—

"'Faut-il vous commander des brochettes d'ortolans?' 'Oui, très bien, brochettes d'ortolans'—et"—proceeded Mr. Paragreen, 'cette chose, you know, vous savez, I mean—cette chose qui est si grosse et'—and to illustrate his meaning, he puffed out his cheeks, and began blowing away as if he were a pair of bellows. 'Omelette soufflée,' said this Oedipus, to whom such inquiries had been propounded hundreds of times before, 'omelette soufflée.' 'That is it,' applauded Mr. Paragreen, 'homelette softly—I wonder [what brochettes are,' said Mr. Paragreen, as the waiter turned to go away."

Presently a gentleman with a bushy black beard comes in, and is soon joined by a dashing young man with curly whiskers and an eyeglass, who calls him "Marquis," to which the other responds by calling the speaker "Lord." The Paragreens prick up their ears, and devour the conversation that ensues, which is all about lords and dukes. At length the curly nobleman pretends to recognise Mr. Paragreen, with a burst of enthusiasm, as an old friend. Mr. Paragreen is enchanted at the mistake, and takes care to tell his new friends who he is, and where he lives. Then follow champagne and toasts; till, growing late, the Marquis, who is obliged to depart at night for England on urgent business, goes out to change his French *billets de banque* for English notes. In a few minutes he returns, with a grand pocket-book in his hand. All the money-changers' shops are unfortunately closed. Mr. Paragreen suggests that he will get plenty of English notes at "Bologne."

"But, my dear friend, I arrive at Boulogne at three in the morning, and said immediately, said the Marquis. 'How am I to do?' Mr. Paragreen gave a hem! 'I think I have some of the goods you are in search of here,' observed he, with the affected carelessness of a purse-proud man; and producing his well-lined, sober-coloured pocket-book—'How much do you want?' 'Forty pounds, at least,' answered the Marquis, 'as I have no French bills under a thousand francs.' 'Here's your money,' said Mr. Paragreen, handing over two twenty pound notes. 'Thank you very much,' returned the Marquis, putting them into his pocket-book, and giving Mr. Paragreen a French note for a thousand francs—'thank you very much, sir; you render me a great service; I must see more of you. Will you do me the pleasure of eating a soup with me—quite *sans façon*? I want to in-

troduce you to Lady Clara, my wife. Ah! here's a bill for five hundred francs. I thought I had none under a thousand. Perhaps you will not mind giving me twenty pounds more for this? You will spare me the trouble of going to a money-changer in London.' 'Very good,' replied Mr. Paragreen, giving a couple of ten pound notes, and receiving the one for five hundred francs."

The sequel is obvious. The notes have been stolen; and when Mr. Paragreen presents them at a money-changers he is taken into custody and charged with the robbery, from which he is luckily relieved by the detection of the real culprit. This incident brings the trip to a sudden conclusion. The family return to their hotel, pack up their luggage, and, satisfied with the lessons they have derived from their visit to Paris, return that night to England.

We have run into these details less on account of this story, than for the purpose of illustrating the general character of a class of stories of which, we think, we have had more than enough. The adventures of the Paragreens are framed upon an established model, as well as are widely known as the "willow-pattern." Every individual in the narrative is a stock figure. The vulgarity which shows itself in the affectation of superfine breeding, the grand assumptions of the wife over the husband, the practical pretensions of the husband, the blind cunning which is always tumbling into pits, the ignorance and the tuft-hunting, are traits of ordinary life which, whatever amount of exceptional truth there may yet be in the application of them to retired citizens, have not only long since lost their novelty, but are no longer true of any one portion of the community more than another. We have outgrown them. The time is gone by when the Jolifès of Hackney were superbly illiterate, or when it was considered the next thing to beatification to have a cousin an alderman. There will always be people who either cannot speak French, or who speak it execrably; vulgarity, vanity, and bad taste, are weeds that must always flourish apace; but they are not the attributes that specially represent the citizen class. This species of ridicule comes down to us in books, out of which it is again and again reproduced, without the slightest reference to the real life of the present time. Thirty-two years of peace, and open intercourse with the Continent, have nearly obliterated the traditional line of the Paragreens: and so far from the character being a true reflection of any existing type, the difficulty would be to discover, throughout the whole length and breadth of London, a single individual so utterly unacquainted with the ways of mankind as to be taken in by the barefaced frauds, of which Mr. Paragreen is described as the victim.

#### *The Myrtle and the Heather.* A Tale. By

A. M. Goodrich. John W. Parker and Son. This is a pretty story, told with much elegance of taste and feeling, and in an excellent spirit. It turns upon the contrasted characters of Beatrice Courtenay and Judith Maxwell. The former, whose mother was an Italian, is intended to represent the perfection of that enthusiastic, loving nature which grows and flourishes under the sunny skies of Italy, and which may be symbolized by the myrtle; the latter is the daughter of a Scotch agent, with all the strongly marked peculiarities of look and manner characteristic of her race, and with an amount of firmness,

energy, and startling candour which certainly bring her within the description of the "strong-minded woman." She is appropriately represented by the heather, which, notwithstanding its dry stalks and harsh foliage, yet bears a flower by no means to be despised.

Beatrice is early left to the care of her grandfather, Mr. Courtenay, an amiable, bookish man, who is tyrannized over by a second wife. The latter happily dies early in the story, and leaves her husband at liberty to follow his erring spendthrift son to Italy in time to close his eyes. With his dying breath young Courtenay implores his little daughter Beatrice to make up for his undutifulness to his father, and from that day she resigns herself with greater devotion than ever to her grandfather, who involves himself by paying his son's debts, and from thenceforth lives in retirement in Italy. A benevolent, but sceptical gentleman, named Howard, discovers the child's rare talent for music, and prevails on a Lady St. Helens, a peeress in her own right, and wife of Sir Roderic Lindesay, to adopt her as her *protégée*, and introduce her in London as a public singer. Into this plan Beatrice enters with all her heart, in the hope of being able, by her professional exertions, to extricate her grandfather from his difficulties, and restore him to his native country.

Of Lady St. Helens' party is young Horace Lindesay, Sir Roderic's nephew and heir, who of course falls in love with Beatrice. Meanwhile, Maxwell, Sir Roderic's agent in Scotland, having from time to time lent his employer money, for which he holds mortgages on the estate to its full value, offers to forego his claim on condition that Horace marries his daughter Judith. Horace, therefore, who is now coming of age, is summoned to Duror by his uncle, who hopes that Judith's blooming looks and good sense may make their due impression on his nephew. At this moment Lady St. Helens, for the first time in her life, takes a fancy to visit the old Highland castle, and determines to celebrate Horace's coming of age with great *éclat*.

Here begin, then, the cross purposes which form the interest of the story. Maxwell and Sir Roderic are intriguing to bring Horace and Judith together—Horace, in love with Beatrice, is nevertheless struck by Judith's good sense and active benevolence among the tenantry, and pays her so much attention, that she and her father have some reason to believe that his heart is engaged. Then there is a drowning scene, in which Beatrice's presence of mind is the means of saving Horace from a watery grave; and private theatricals, in which Beatrice excels, and from which Judith is no less appropriately absent on a work of mercy among the poor. The result of her theatrical success is, that Beatrice receives an offer of an engagement from the manager of an Edinburgh theatre; but having promised her grandfather never to go on the stage, she declares her intention to Lady St. Helens, who from that moment cruelly and coolly discards her. The state of Horace's feelings becomes evident; the whole party at Duror Castle is scattered; Maxwell becomes the laird, and takes possession of the property.

But both he and Judith find themselves ill at ease in their newly-found grandeur; and the latter, whose good intentions are fostered by Mr. Douglas, the episcopalian clergyman,

and a nice old Miss Evelyn, who lives in a cottage on the estate, and has been Judith's friend and adviser from her youth, endeavours to persuade her father to restore Duror to the Lindesays, a course which is throughout represented as the only one consistent with rectitude.

Now, here the moral appears to us to be faulty. If Sir Roderic chose to borrow money from his agent, the agent had a perfect right to ask for a material guarantee, and to foreclose the mortgage if the money were not forthcoming. To represent this as dishonourable is to confuse the principles of right and wrong. It is quite as dangerous to raise the standard of morals too high as it is to sink it too low. Moore tells us that Sheridan's notion of the law of honour was so high that he relinquished as impracticable all idea of acting up to it. Whenever we hear of a stern moralist, we always suspect that all is not right in his practice. The tendency of that casuistry which makes every venial infirmity a deadly sin is to destroy the distinction between good and evil; and it generally ends, practically, in the denial that anything is sinful. We are far from accusing Mr. Goodrich of any intention to inculcate these errors. Our observations are intended merely to point out the tendency, in our opinion, of a slight approach on his part to that purism in morals which, when generally adopted, does, we believe, produce the bitterest fruits. It afterwards appears, it is true, that Maxwell has more to answer for than merely exacting the payment of his money, or an equivalent; but Judith, Miss Evelyn, Mr. Douglas, Horace Lindesay—all concur in condemning his conduct as immoral, when they know no more of it than what we have stated.

The agent's health having been injured by a fall from his horse, Judith takes advantage of his weakness to urge upon him the duty of making restitution, though we know not as yet that there is any unjust gain to restore. It soon comes out, however, that he has been all the time aware that a valuable vein of copper runs through a farm which he had some time before prevailed on its owner to sell to Sir Roderic, with the full intention of ultimately getting possession of it himself.

Here is certainly a case of palpable dishonesty. If Maxwell had not discovered the presence of the copper till after he had obtained possession, he would clearly not have been bound to give Sir Roderic the benefit of his discovery. But while he continued Sir Roderic's agent, it was his obvious duty to enable him to make the most of his property.

Meanwhile Beatrice, having been abandoned by Lady St. Helens, is taken up by a blunt, but good-hearted Lady Rhoda Marlowe, who brings her out at a concert in town. Her success is conclusive; and her former patroness, who is present unintentionally, is thrown into fainting fits by the vexation of witnessing it. The plot now thickens. Sir Roderic is shot in a duel at the very German watering-place where, in former days, he had ruined Beatrice's father at play; Horace becomes private secretary to a nobleman, whom he accompanies to Florence. Maxwell repairs to the same place for the benefit of his health, and is prevailed upon by Judith to restore Duror to Sir Horace Lindesay on the payment of the original mortgage, which is easily discharged by the produce of the newly-discovered copper mines. Mr. Courtenay is

restored to his country, and the benevolent Mr. Howard is reclaimed from his scepticism by Beatrice, who in due time becomes Lady Lindesay. Thus "The Myrtle" flourishes in the congenial air of Duror Castle; while "The Heather" picks up a very strong-minded Arthur Guildford, a colonel in the H.E.I.C.'s service, and thrives upon her native moors, where she builds a church dedicated to St. Peter, in memory of her father's fall and bitter repentance.

Interspersed with these leading incidents are several episodes. That of the death of Vincent Clare strikes us as unnatural; moreover, it adds nothing to the action of the story, and indeed might well have been spared. With the few qualifications which we have mentioned, "The Myrtle and the Heather" is much above the average in taste and execution. But why is it that our novelists draw so largely upon high life and aristocratic feelings? Our literature indeed would seem to show, that while we are distinguished among the nations of Europe by the popular character of our political institutions, we outstrip them all in our social worship of rank. On what other grounds can we explain the fact that our novelists prefer painting those artificial manners with which but a very small portion of readers can be familiar, while they neglect those broad tracts of nature which are intelligible and interesting to all, because they are common to the whole human race?

*California, Indoors and Out; or, How we Farm, Mine, and Live generally in the Golden State.* By Eliza W. Farnham. Low, Son, and Co.

In the young romantic days of Greek history, when Jason sailed with his Argonauts in quest of the golden fleece; and in the early times of English adventure, when Raleigh led his gallant bands to the conquest of El Dorado, the same spirit was abroad which in our age has raised new nations on the remote coasts of the Pacific. The *auri sacra fames* has done some good service in the world's peopling and civilization. Slow would have been the progress of colonies in those remote regions, compared with the marvellous growth of the Australian and American gold countries. Eight years have not yet passed since the first influx of "diggers" to California. It is now a great state of the American Union. Its capital, San Francisco, is the fourth city in the whole continent, and it is second to New York alone in the number of vessels that yearly enter its port. Of the 113,000,000 added within the last few years to the circulating medium of the world's commerce, 63 millions sterling have been the produce of California. In the wild enthusiasm of the first gold discoveries, a motley crowd was attracted to the country, and the population now embraces every colour, and character, and ethnological variety of the human race. The Malay and the Chinaman, the Spaniard and the Frenchman, the German and the Briton, the African and the Celt, here meet together, while the Yankee contemplates his numerous guests, and says, "This California is a great location, and, I calculate, about the smartest people in the world have got hold of it." That lawlessness and disorder should mark the early annals of such a country is not surprising; but as might be expected with a predominance of the Anglo-Saxon race, the population is settling rapidly down into organization and order. The volume

before us gives the latest report of the condition of the State, narrating its history down to the autumn of this year, and containing interesting notices of its progress during the six years that the author has resided in the country. As most of the accounts of California that have been published in Europe have related chiefly to its mining wealth and operations, and to life in San Francisco, this work is the more welcome, as presenting authentic reports of the agricultural resources, and of the permanent rural population of the Golden State.

In the spring of 1849 there was published at New York a scheme of female emigration to California, under the direction of Mrs. Farnham, who had lost her husband at San Francisco the previous year. The emigrants were to be "intelligent, virtuous, and efficient women, not under twenty-five years of age, bringing from their clergymen, or some authority of their place of residence, satisfactory testimonials of education, character, capacity, &c., and who can contribute the sum of 250 dollars for the expenses of the voyage and temporary accommodation on arrival." It was calculated that from 100 to 130 persons would enable the company to charter a vessel, to carry out the project. The advertisement was endorsed by a number of well-known names, including Judge Edmonds, the U.S. Attorney, Hon. B. F. Butler, Horace Greeley, Isaac T. Hopper, the Rev. Henry Beecher, W. C. Bryant, Miss Sedgwick, and Mrs. Kirkland. Whether from the qualifications requiring a more select class of emigrants than those taken by Mrs. Chisholm to our Australian colonies, or from the discouraging reports of the rude life of the Californian diggers, out of two hundred who communicated with Mrs. Farnham, only three set sail with her and her children. Of the trials and hardships endured by them a lively account is given, but these it is needless here to refer to, as they were of the kind common to those who have "to rough it in the bush" in all new countries. The little band of emigrants took a farm in the district of Santa Cruz, about seventy miles from San Francisco, and we are pleased to learn that the author at the time of her publishing her book was prospering, as might be expected from the abundant praises of the land of her adoption. In four years she has indeed witnessed marvellous changes.

"In riding through one of her large agricultural valleys, a few weeks since, where, so late as 1852, there was scarcely a mile of fence to be seen from one end of it to the other, I saw now continuous grain-fields, of six or eight miles in length, with, perhaps, a dozen reapers, of the best patent, marching up and down, levelling the tall thick harvest. Comfortable, substantial farm-houses, or neat cottages, stand upon the sites of the little canvass shanties we used to see, and neat, often elegant vehicles, have taken the place of the clumsy coarse waggon of those times. You may travel in summer on all the main roads, from the north to the south, in the best Concord or Troy coaches, and be received, in the more considerable towns, at as good hotels as you will find at corresponding places any where in the Union. And even this great material progress is less expressive of the growth of the state than other signs at present visible in her condition."

Among these other signs of progress, the rapid development of the press is one of the most remarkable. At the close of the year 1853, there were forty-three papers printed in the State, and in San Francisco alone sixteen newspapers, besides various religious periodicals.



"The secular press of San Francisco has been generally fearless, in times of public commotion, in defence of the rights and interests of the country, while its tone has, for the most part, been temperate, firm, and respectful, to the powers and individuals against whom it has arrayed itself.

"On the other hand, it must be acknowledged, that a higher position might have been taken by most of the prints, and honour, integrity, and self-respect in business affairs—and greater regard for decency, restraint, and the claims of society upon individual virtue been enjoined, where a very great lack of all has been painfully manifest.

"In such a land, the press has the power to stand far in advance of the pulpit in the ministrations of morality, for tens of thousands, throughout its length and breadth, will devour every line in a newspaper, who will not set foot upon the threshold of a church. An earnest, pure-hearted, courageous man, conducting a newspaper in the midst of such a society as California at her best points presents, has a broad and most important field around him, wherein, by a thousand indirect, as well as direct means, he may proclaim the law of life and temporal salvation to bewildered hundreds and thousands."

Mrs. Farnham relates many anecdotes illustrative of the social life of the settlers, the general coarseness of which is not tempered, as in our British colonies, by a large leaven of education and refinement.

"A lady was one day paying me a visit, and in the course of her talk accused me of going too little into society. I replied in my blunt, foolish way, that there was none to go into. 'O, I beg your pardon,' said my visitor; 'if you have not been out here for some time, you'll find things are greatly metamorphosized; there's a circle of the real elite that meets every fortnight at Mrs. So-and-So's and Mrs. So-and-So's, and we have delightful times. You really ought to go. You'd enjoy yourself very much. It's so refreshing to be in *societee* with your neighbours in a strange land!' But pretension is not confined to females. I loaned Combe's Physiology to a gentleman who requested the perusal of it, and he returned it in due time, with the remark, that he didn't consider the *treaty* to be as deep as *Laymyster* was on the same subject; and lighter writings coming under remark in the course of the visit, he replied to a question by Georgie, if he had read the 'Last of the Mohicans,' that he had not, but he had been very much pleased with the first."

During the autumn of the present year California has undergone a revolution and a civil war on a small scale, and the result, according to Mrs. Farnham, is hailed with joy by all the peacefully-inclined populations. In a new country, with universal suffrage, and an ever-shifting population, the antecedents of candidates for office can be little known, and it appears that many ruffians of the worst stamp, by dint of bribing and treating, had obtained high position, and gradually exerted paramount influence in the State. Matters grew at length so bad, that the more respectable inhabitants formed a Vigilance Committee, and resolved by Lynch law to resist the authorities. The rogues in office called themselves the "Law and Order Party," but their opponents changed the designation into "Law and Murder." After a severe contest, the details of which are narrated in Mrs. Farnham's book, the Vigilance Committee triumphed, and a revolution was accomplished which is described as "both in its progress and completion, the grandest and most satisfactory testimony to the capacity of republican Americans for self-government." If a counter-revolution does not take place, there are certainly now better prospects for this vigorous young country.

#### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

*The Rise and Progress of Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand.* By an Englishman. Saunders and Otley.

*Pen and Pencil Pictures.* By Thomas Hood. Hurst and Blackett.

*Matter: its Forms and Governing Laws.* By George Duplex. Bradbury and Evans.

*Meditations and Prayers.* By S. Anselm. J. H. and J. Parker.

*Sir Edwin Gilderoy: a Ballad.* By Feltham Burghley. John Chapman.

*Rosa Grey; or, the Officer's Daughter.* 3 vols. Hurst and Blackett.

*Cockrem's Tourist's Guide to Torquay and its Neighbourhood.* Torquay: E. Cockrem.

*Poetry from Life.* By C. M. K. Smith, Elder, and Co.

*Notes on the Gospels for all the Sundays of the Year.* By the Rev. Alfred Barry, M.A. Rivingtons.

So many volumes have lately been published on the Australian Colonies, that a new work on the subject must possess peculiar qualifications to recommend it to public notice. The claims of the Englishman who writes the present book are, that he has personally observed whatever he describes, and that the statistics which he publishes have been derived from official sources. Added to this, he has laid himself out specially to note the moral characteristics and social usages of colonial life, and on these points his statements are so full as to form a marked feature of the work. The colonies included in the description are Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania, and New Zealand. In Australia, the author's observations seem to have been chiefly confined to the towns, and to the commercial operations of the colonists, his notices of the agricultural settlements being comparatively meagre, and South Australia or Adelaide he did not visit. Of Victoria, and its capital, Melbourne, no better account has yet been published, and most lively sketches are given of the material condition of the colony, and the social life of its inhabitants. Of the New Zealand colonies, Auckland, Nelson, Wellington, Canterbury, and Otago, the descriptions are also copious and graphic. Of the four hundred pages, of which the descriptive part of the volume consists, three hundred are occupied with Victoria and New Zealand. In each chapter of the book appear tables of revenue and expenditure, of imports and exports, and other statistical information, with notices of the occupations and the habits of the population. The fearless and independent manner in which the author expresses his opinions as to the characters and actions of public men, as well as upon the vices and follies of the colonists, attest his honesty and faithfulness, and may prove of some service in calling attention to evils, even if ineffectual to aid in their mitigation or removal. On the press in Australia, as elsewhere, much must depend for the social improvement of the country; but unhappily, according to the present account, the journalists as a body belong to a very inferior class, morally and intellectually, to the conductors of newspapers in this country. The view of colonial society altogether as seen by this Englishman is sadly discouraging. The exceptions in all the places visited only throw into darker contrast the follies and vices which mark the mass of colonial life in this part of the world. It may be hoped, however, that the author has too much dwelt upon the dark side of the social picture, and that his residence was too short during his two visits to enable him to become acquainted with the better features of society at the Antipodes. The last one hundred pages of the volume are occupied with local colonial directories, and other lists of interest only to residents or to those who have commercial transactions with the colonies. The climate of Australia, by the way, is declared to be, in spite of reports to the contrary, one of the worst in the world. Any thought of emigration to these regions of the globe, except under impulsion of dire necessity, or the wild attraction of the gold diggings, will be materially checked in most readers by the perusal of this plain-spoken volume.

Light and genial sketches on many topics of literature, art, and life, are the Pen and Pencil Sketches of Thomas Hood, who has inherited some

of the spirit of the father whose name he bears. The poetical pieces, however, lack the terseness and point of the Tom Hood, as well as the deep tone of human sympathy that marked all his works.

The treatise on Matter, its Forms and Governing Laws, by George Duplex, is a more useful and satisfactory work than might be anticipated from the vagueness of the title and the wideness of its plan. It is the author's object to present to those who have not enjoyed a scientific education a general view of the physical sciences, or of the knowledge of the material universe, organic as well as inorganic. Beginning with the properties of matter, and heat, light, electricity, and magnetism, the treatise gives the leading truths of Astronomy, Chemistry, and Geology, and then proceeds to the phenomena of life, vegetable and animal, concluding with the highest forms, and a summary of the physiology of the human frame and the philosophy of the human mind. This is an ambitious programme, and in a small volume of 160 pages it may be well imagined that it is very slightly and superficially filled up. But the facts are on the whole judiciously selected, and accurate as far as they go, and the work may serve the purpose for which it was prepared,—the imparting of such popular information on scientific subjects as will be likely to tempt to further study.

The Meditations and Prayers of St. Anselm, abbot of Bec, and appointed Archbishop of Canterbury, by William Rufus, A.D. 1093, have always been highly esteemed as aids to devotion. In this country, since the Reformation, the meditations have been chiefly known through paraphrastic versions published by Dean Stanhope. In the present volume an attempt is successfully made to present a more faithful translation of the original, and also to separate the genuine works of St. Anselm from those of other authors, with which they have been almost invariably mixed up. How far this critical determination is to be relied on it would take too much space here to examine, but there is no doubt that the bulk of the Meditations are really the production of the pious St. Anselm, and the translator has fully entered into the spirit, and conveyed the meaning of the original, thereby rendering a good service to devout readers.

For the numerous visitors attracted to Torquay by the salubrity of its climate, is provided Cockrem's Tourist's Guide, containing topographical and historical notices of the town and its neighbourhood, with illustrative engravings. A chapter on the geology of the district, appended lists of fossils, and also of the local fauna and flora, terrestrial and marine, render the book a most useful companion to the lovers of natural history, for the pursuits of every branch of which there is here abundant scope. An index is much wanted.

The Notes on the Gospels for all the Sundays of the Year are designed for the use of Sunday-school teachers, and other students of the Holy Scriptures. The part now published is the first of a series, to be prepared by a committee of the clergy of the rural deanery of Leeds, for the diffusion of Scriptural teaching on church principles.

#### New Editions.

*Select Works of Thomas Chalmers, D.D. Vol. X.—Christian and Economic Polity of a Nation.* Edited by the Rev. William Hanna, LL.D. Constable and Co.

*The Art of Perfumery, and the Methods of Obtaining the Odours of Plants, &c.* By Septimus Plasse. Second Edition. Longman and Co.

*Poems of Robert Green and Christopher Marlowe.* Edited by Robert Bell. John W. Parker and Son.

*Routledge's Shakespeare.* Edited by H. Stanton. Part I. Illustrated by John Gilbert. Routledge and Co.

*Post-Office London Directory for 1857.* Kelly and Co.

THE tenth volume of the new edition of the select works of Dr. Chalmers, contains his treatise on the Christian and Civic Economy of Large Towns, chiefly viewed in connexion with the parochial system, but discussing many points affecting the social condition and welfare of the people, worthy of being studied by statesmen and philanthropists, as well as by the clergy and other parochial officials. To pauperism and the right management of the poor, a subject to which Dr. Chalmers devoted unwearied attention, and on which his own exp-



rience as a parish minister in Glasgow supplied him with important data, several chapters are devoted, and the appendix contains various documents on the same important question, including the evidence of Dr. Chalmers before a Committee of the House of Commons, on the Irish Poor Law.

The daily broadsheet of 'The Times' newspaper, and the annual volume of the Post Office London Directory, always appear to us the most striking proofs and symbols, so far as the press is an index, of the material wealth and greatness of this empire. Certainly no other country could supply the matter, even if it could manage the execution of this wonderful volume. The publication for the year 1857 sustains the reputation of the work for fulness, completeness, and accuracy; as the metropolitan Directory, while also affording useful information on subjects of national importance and interest. Of this nature is the information in the Postal and in the Conveyance Directory, embracing all matter pertaining to roads and railways, and the communication by the postal service between England and all parts of the world. The principal feature of novelty this year is the division of the Street Directory into Postal Districts, for the greater facility of the delivery of letters. These districts are also marked by different colours in the map of London, which accompanies the Directory. It is gratifying to add that the withdrawal of a threatened rivalry has not led to any abatement of the efforts of the proprietors of the Post Office Directory to render the work as complete and accurate as can be accomplished by the most liberal outlay of labour and money in its compilation. The old matter has been carefully verified, and pains taken to introduce new information, as well as to make corrections and improvements down to the date of publication.

#### Miscellaneous, Pamphlets, &c.

*The West of Scotland Magazine and Review.* New Series. No. III. Glasgow: Murray and Son.  
*Birmingham: its Educational Condition and Educational Requirements.* By the Rev. Nash Stephenson, M.A. Groombridge and Sons.  
*Observations on the Topography and Climate of Aspley Guise.* By James Williams, M.D. T. Richards.  
*A Manual of Gothic Surface Ornament.* J. H. and J. Parker.  
*Protestant Memorials: Poems.* By the Rev. E. Widd Culesha, M.A. Second Edition. Wertheim and Macintosh.  
*The Thunderstorm; or, a Wedding in Harvest. A Rural Sketch.* By Thomas Nicholson. Printed for the Author.  
*Parker's Church Calendar and General Almanack for 1857.* J. H. and J. Parker.  
*Clergyman's Almanac and Diary for 1857.* Printed for the Stationers' Company.  
*Corner Cupboard: a Family Repository.* No. I. Houlston and Stoneman.  
*The Work of a Ladies' College.* By the Rev. J. Baldwin Brown, B.A. Walton and Maberly.

In the 'West of Scotland Review,' for this month, there is an article on Mr. Thackeray in Glasgow, with more independent comments and criticisms than have been commonly ventured on by the provincial press. With some severity and not a little truth, the writer thus speaks of Mr. Thackeray's viewing historical characters through the jaundice-coloured spectacles of a misanthropic satirist:—"Human nature as seen by him is all vanity, and pride, and hypocrisy, and meanness. Mr. Thackeray complains that among all the Court he cannot find one to love. He complains that the Queen (Caroline) would have chopped her children to pieces to show her devotion to the King their father. Is a wife's devotion to her husband so hateful? Was there no bishop at Court but the one who bought his benefice of Lady Yarmouth for 5000l? When did ever Court contain more deserving men than Stillingfleet, Hare, Sherlock, and Butler?—all of whom were sought out and preferred to the Episcopal Bench by the Queen herself. Because a clergyman emitted a panegyric in bad taste on a deceased monarch, was the whole bench of bishops corrupt? Was the age in which Newton lived, and Addison wrote, and Locke reasoned, and England flourished, an age to be despised? Is it proper to dilate on the character of a king as having neither dignity, learning, nor wit? He might want all these, and yet be far from being the 'royal rascal' he is described to be. One of the best and most impartial of our historians,

Lord Mahon, says of him, that 'his reign of thirty-three years deserves this praise, that it never once invaded the right of the nation, nor harshly enforced the prerogatives of the Crown; that its last period was illumined by the glories of Wolfe, and of Chatham, and that it left the dynasty secure, the constitution unimpaired, and the people prosperous.' Whether is this estimate or that of Mr. Thackeray the most worthy for an author to utter, and which would be the most profitable for an audience to hear?" After further contrasting the spirit of the historian with that of the lecturer, and quoting some striking passages from Lord Mahon, about the era of the Georges, which he compares to that of the Antonines at Rome, the reviewer says:—"Mr. Thackeray proceeds through the history of the House of Hanover like a policeman through the streets. He takes no note of the virtuous, the industrious, the honest, and the upright. He seizes only the vicious, the dishonest, and the vile, and turns his attention to none else. He drags out the pimp, the prostitute, and the thief, and parades them in Bow-street before a brilliant audience. All that is good, and great, and virtuous, and noble, is scoffed at, and the frailties and shortcomings of individuals are hunted out and exaggerated, and made prominent, till the lecturer seems a second Timon, exclaiming:—

'All is oblique;  
There's nothing level in our cursed natures,  
But direct villany. Therefore be abhorrd  
All feasts, societies, and throngs of men!'

On some of the subjects brought forward in the letter of the Hon. and Rev. Grantham M. Yorke, on the Education of the Children of the Operatives in Birmingham, and other great manufacturing towns, remarks are made by the Rev. Nash Stephenson, M.A. Agreeing in the main object of elevating the education of the working classes, some differences of opinion as to details are usefully discussed in this pamphlet.

Driven by ill-health from a more bleak sphere of professional labour on the borders of South Wales, Dr. Williams settled at Aspley Guise, in Bedfordshire, and having had experience in his own case, and in a wide practice, of the salubrity of the place, he publishes a recommendation of it to others. The climate is described as being remarkable for its dryness, equability, and purity, and the statistics adduced by Dr. Williams confirm his favourable report.

The Manual of Surface Ornament forms the third of a series of treatises on Gothic Ornament, published under the authority of the Department of Science and Art, and recommended in its list of publications. The previous number treated of stone carving and of mouldings. They are useful and elegantly illustrated handbooks of this branch of decorative art.

In the times after the minstrels of the old school of romance had disappeared, and before the printing press had turned listeners into readers, Mr. Nicholson might have been a bard of no little popularity. His story of the thunder-storm is told with animation, and though it can scarcely stand formal tests of literary criticism, it may certainly please a rural and provincial audience.

Parker's Church Calendar, and Gilbert's Clergyman's Almanac, are publications specially adapted for the use of the clerical profession and others dependent on ecclesiastical and academic arrangements. They also contain all the information found in ordinary almanacs.

The contents of the Literary Corner Cupboard are as miscellaneous as those generally found in the old-fashioned convenience of the name in the cottage homes of England. The etiquette of Christmas parties, how to cure the foot-rot in sheep, lessons in skating, advice to business men, the best recipe for a plum-pudding, and for sauce, either according to Dr. Kitchener or Dr. Pumpwasser, the average number of rainy days in London, and how to make furniture oil,—these are among the 170 items in No. I. of the Corner Cupboard. The last in the list is, how to stop bleeding at the nose, for which four plans are given, among which, strange to say, is not mentioned

putting the street-door key down the back. The magazine is illustrated with numerous woodcuts. An ingenious advertising contrivance is adopted by the publishers, in sheets of adhesive labels, like postage stamps, with a request that they may be affixed to letters or papers, as a friendly recommendation of the work.

#### List of New Books.

Abernethy's (J.) Memoirs, by G. Macilwain, 1 vol. 8vo, cl., 10s. 6d.  
Aldershotian, post 8vo, boards, 2s. 6d.  
Anselm's (S.) Meditations and Prayers, fcap., cloth, 5s.  
Ashburn; a Tale, by Aura, post 8vo, cloth, 5s.  
Baydon on Kents, 8vo, cl., 7th edit., 10s. 6d.  
Cambridge Essays, 1855, 8vo, sewed, 7s. 6d.  
Christmas with the Poets, 8vo, cl., illustrated, 21s. 5s.; mor., cl. 15s.  
Clarke's (O. W. B.) Watch-Tower Book, post 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.  
Clarke's (Capt.) Edith Frankheart, 3 vols. post 8vo, cl., 41 11s. 6d.  
Dark Decade, 12mo, boards, 1s. 6d.  
De Mora (Don A. H.) Narrative of His Imprisonment, 12mo, cl., 5s.  
Dialogues on Divine Providence, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.  
Early Dawn, super royal 16mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.; coloured, 3s. 6d.  
Experience of a Gaelic Chaplain, 12mo, boards, 2s.  
Fyre's (Sir J.) The Stomach, 12mo, sewed, 2s. 6d.  
Family Friend, Vol. II., post 8vo, cloth, new series, 2s. 6d.  
Farr's England, 12mo, cloth, new edition, 5s. 6d.  
Feed My Lambs, 2d edition, 16mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.  
Gleig's School Series: Domestic Economy, 18mo, sewed, 1s.  
Grant's (J.) Law of Banking and Bankers, post 8vo, cloth, 15s.  
Gray's (J.) Country Solicitor's Practice, royal 12mo, cloth, 12s. 6d.  
Guth's Scientific Register, 1857, roan tack, 3s. 6d.  
Halliwell's Nursery Rhymes of England, 12mo, cloth, 4s. 6d.  
Hinton's (H.) God's Government of Man, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.  
Home Companion, sewed, 2s. 6d.; cloth, gilt, 3s.  
Home and Colonial School Society Manual for Infant Schools, 2s. 6d.  
Howe's (T. Pen and Pencil Pictures, post 8vo, cloth, 10s. 6d.  
Jones's (Wm.) Memoir, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.  
Kingston's (W. H. G.) Salt Water, fcap., cloth, 5s.  
Law's (Archd.) Christ is All: Leviticus, 12mo, cloth, 3s.  
Letters of Queen Henrietta Maria, post 8vo, cloth, 10s. 6d.  
Lilliesleaf, new edition, post 8vo, cloth, 6s.  
Malcolm's (Sir J.) Life, by J. W. Kaye, 2 vols. 8vo, cl., 41 11s.  
Memoirs of Bethany, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.  
Meteyard's (Eliza) Lullaby's Golden Hours, illustrated, 12mo, cl., 5s.  
Parlor Fastime, square, cloth, 3s. 6d.  
Pissie's (G. W.) Perfumery, 2d edition, 8vo, cloth, 8s. 6d.  
Poetry from Life, fcap., cloth, gilt, 5s.  
Pollak's Course of Time, illustrated, square 8vo, cloth, 41 1s.  
Proust's (J.) Rambles through the United States, &c., 8vo, cl., 16s. 6d.  
Round the Fire, square 16mo, cloth, 3s.  
Russell's (D.) Letters, 12mo, cloth, 6s.  
Savory's Compendium of Domestic Medicine, 12mo, cl., 5s.  
Sawyer's (J.) Rambles through the United States, &c., 8vo, cl., 16s. 6d.  
Sidney Grey, fcap., cloth, 6s.

#### ARTICLES AND COMMUNICATIONS.

##### MECHANICS' INSTITUTES.

OF the many wonders of our great manufacturing towns, none is to our minds more suggestive of reflection than the aspect of their principal thoroughfares on a Saturday night. It is unlike anything to be seen elsewhere. The crowds which throng the Strand or Oxford Street when any particular attraction calls the people from their homes are quite different. They are composed of various classes, collected for the nonce, and with no bond of union to connect them. But the Brigatte, the Kirkgate, and other chief streets in Leeds and Huddersfield on the closing evening of the week, are peopled by a dense, but homogeneous crowd of men and women, dressed in the utmost extravagance of fashion, and intent on displaying their persons and finery by the light of the flaring gas-burners which throw their lurid glare across the moving throng. Here is no crushing or crowding. Each gentleman has on his arm a lady to whom he is all attention. We feel that a certain rude etiquette rules the vast assemblage. The hum of conversation is heard on every side as group meets group; there is a certain fashionable air of nonchalance about the cavaliers as they address a remark to a passing friend, or stoop down in conversation with their fair partners. But there is nothing metropolitan about the affair; the tones, the appearance, the whole scene is redolent of Yorkshire in its manufacturing development. It is a parody, on a gigantic scale, of Kensington Gardens, or the *Tapis vert* at Versailles.

Then look at the men's faces. There is the bright intelligent eye and the pale sunken cheek betokening intellectual activity, and the coarse sensual mouth and fiercely discontented expression which are evidence of undisciplined minds and depraved morals. The women, too, have the steady gaze and self-possessed air of persons accustomed to society, and to the deferential gallantry of the other sex. You see at a glance that here is a set into which you have never been introduced, but which has its laws and usages, its *convenances* and its enjoyments peculiar to itself. Here is a new

phase of society, very far indeed from the bottom of the social scale, and compared with which the quiet respectability of a non-manufacturing country would appear dullness and stagnation itself.

Who are these countless multitudes? and whence do they come? These are the men and women by whose skill the world is clothed. These are the operatives who supply, not only Europe, but the half savage tribes of Africa and Asia, with coats and shirts. In the morning you will see these gay promenaders in an atmosphere of dust and boiling oil, amid the hubbub of innumerable wheels and bobbins, with hands and faces begrimed with blue dye-stuff, and looking like the denizens of Pandemonium, busily engaged in feeding the groaning engine with cotton or wool. With plenty of money in their pockets, for they have just been paid their week's wages, they have now come out to indemnify themselves for their six days of toil; and we do not envy the man who would grudge them their promenade and their dance, their finery and their modish airs.

But in those intelligent and painfully thoughtful faces we see abundant evidence of intellectual wants which cannot be satisfied by the mere vicissitude of toil and dissipation. The attenuated form and brilliant eye denote an imagination which, if food be not provided for it, will feed upon garbage. In the clouded brow and sensual mouth may be discerned the egotism and ambition which, unless they receive a vent, may endanger the safety of society. Well do we recollect the terror with which these men, now intent only on amusement, were regarded by their employers when, in 1848, flour was at famine prices, and foreign orders did not come in, and the possessors of strong hands and resolute hearts evinced an inclination to return to the primeval law of nature, and to relieve their own necessities out of the superfluity of those who had been enriched by their labour. We shall never forget the dismay which sat upon the faces of some of the principal capitalists, while one of their body inquired with faltering voice of the commanding officer of the district, whether "the military might be depended upon."

Go to the houses of these men, and you will see abundant evidence of taste and knowledge, though sometimes it is misdirected. Music is their passion, and the West Riding is celebrated for the beauty of its voices. Over their chimney-pieces will be hung up flutes and violins, and on their tables will be placed music-books. We have sometimes seen the occupants of a long line of third-class carriages on an excursion, listening with breathless attention while the choir of some church or national school sang glees and madrigals for their amusement. Sometimes the artisan, returned from his work at the mill, will be seated before an easel, endeavouring to depict the green fields and flowing streams, and blue sky, which he is doomed to witness but seldom in nature. But too often you will find on his little book-shelf, Tom Paine's 'Rights of Man,' 'Hume's Essays,' or the 'Black Book,' from which he learns, with indignation and envy, how the higher orders fatten on rich sinecures, which he is taught to believe are paid out of his hard earnings. Superstition always goes hand in hand with infidelity. In every street resides a 'Harris,' who lives handsomely by telling fortunes and casting nativities. While work is plenty and wages high, the Yorkshire operative has ducks and green peas for dinner; when the reverse comes, his employers tremble for their mills.

That education will do everything for these people we do not believe; but we hold it to be indisputable that it will in some degree ameliorate their moral condition, if it be only to teach them the suicidal folly of strikes and revolution. It is therefore no less the wisdom than the duty of those who are benefited by their labour to educate them. But how are they to be educated? The clergy of the several denominations succeed in catching a few of them, whom they induce to become teachers in Sunday-schools; or, if there be a deformed, or very stupid boy, him they make a pupil-teacher, and finally the master of the deserted national school. But if any great and adequate impression is to be

made on these people, it must be by showing them how to educate themselves. Of all attempts to control their opinions they evince the most unmitigated distrust; but the case is not for this reason hopeless; they have a superabundance of imagination and ambition to work upon; and if you can once show them how they may turn knowledge into a useful channel, and make it the means of raising their own position, learning will become the fashion among them.

This is the task which the much-despised Mechanics' Institutes are endeavouring to accomplish. Like everything which is destined to produce good, they have been gaining their experience from a series of failures and partial successes. When they were first instituted, we were told that they were at once to regenerate the masses, and to supply all the intellectual and moral wants of our manufacturing population. But in a short time even their most ardent admirers were disposed to abandon them as hotbeds of infidelity, socialism, and political agitation. Through this phase of their existence they have been gradually passing into reading rooms and libraries for the working classes. At length the Huddersfield Mechanics' Institute has struck out a new idea, which bids fair, in conjunction with other independent causes, to draw the active but untutored intellect of the manufacturing towns into the great stream of civilization. And we shall rejoice in the fusion, or confusion, of parties, even though it should produce no other good effect than that of disposing statesmen of all shades of opinion to unite in schemes such as this for the benefit of the lower orders.

On Wednesday, the 26th of last month, the Huddersfield Mechanics' Institute met to hold its annual *soirée*, under the presidency of Lord Goderich, who detailed the objects and progress of the Society in a speech which contains points of so much interest that we shall make no apology for dwelling upon them at some length.

The leading features of this institution are its classes for instruction, and its examinations for honours. It consists of 1000 members, of whom 750 are working men. This is indeed a small proportion of the factory hands in Huddersfield, but they are the nobler part, whose example cannot fail to leaven and raise the tone of the whole mass. There are forty-nine elementary, and twenty-nine advanced classes. The subjects of instruction consist of reading, grammar, mathematics, including algebra and geometry, French, drawing, music, correspondence, and photography.

The correspondence class must certainly be a curiosity. We wonder whether the old formula—'My dear parents, This comes hoping that you are in as good health as I am in at present, thank God for it,—be still the approved mode of beginning a letter. What is the text-book?—Madame de Sevigné or Lady Mary Wortley Montague? But the last-named branch of learning quite sets our critical sagacity at fault. After a diligent search in Scott and Liddell, we find that photography may be resolved into two words, signifying 'the voice' and 'to write.' Is it possible that a new process, analogous to photography, has been discovered in Yorkshire, by which the voice, as it issues from the speaker's mouth, impinging upon some chemical preparation, becomes fixed for ever on the metal? If the method of performing this process be taught at the Huddersfield Mechanics' Institute, it will soon supersede the professors of the difficult and laborious art of stenography, and we may hope to enjoy the luxury of 'The Times' on our breakfast-table at half or a quarter of its present cost. But there is a difficulty about this interpretation of the term photography. What character would the "words that burn" form upon the metal plate? Would the voice of the Israelite fall naturally into Hebrew characters, and that of an Englishman into the genuine Anglo-Saxon? If so, would not this be a powerful argument against the admission of Jews into Parliament? Fancy the puzzle of being obliged to read Sir David Salomons' speeches backwards! But, after all, perhaps this 'photography' is only the scientific name for writing from dictation. Oh, the power

of science to impart dignity to the commonest things! M. Jourdain's increase of importance upon finding that he had been all his life talking prose, is nothing to that of a young mechanic, who having learned to pen a letter from dictation, wakens one fine morning to find himself—a 'phonographer'!

Lord Goderich does not dwell much upon the correspondence class and the photography; but he tells us that the mathematical class, though not very large, has shown a proficiency, which is stated by the Rev. Mr. Smith, a distinguished mathematician from Cambridge, to be of the "very highest order;" and further, that this class has been taught by a Mr. Whitham, a *bond fide* working plasterer. Of the whole number of teachers who devote their evenings to this work only sixteen are paid, while forty-six give their services gratis. Here, indeed, is something tangible and valuable. The tendency of all fixed salaries is to make men perform their work in a heartless and perfunctory spirit. Now this is pernicious enough in any business, but in education it is fatal. The office of teaching is so disagreeable, that a man must be an enthusiast, like Dr. Arnold, to give his whole mind to it; and without this it is almost useless. Education, to be worth anything, must consist in the direct working of a superior upon an inferior mind; and it has always been held, by those who have studied the question, that the discipline of our universities lies even more in the indirect influence exercised upon the pupils' minds by the society of the best disposed among themselves, than in the direct instruction imparted to them. If, then, you can induce the better disposed and better educated among the manufacturing population to devote their evenings to instructing their less fortunate companions, as a labour of love, under the supervision of experienced persons, you may hope, not only that knowledge will become generally diffused among them, but that both the teachers and the taught will be educating themselves in the highest sense of the word. Of the thirst for knowledge among these people we have no doubt. Dr. Booth, a subsequent speaker at the meeting, mentioned the fact that one of the students was in the habit of walking sixteen miles a day to be present at the lectures. We have ourselves often admired the intelligent interest evinced by the young operatives when, after a dry lecture on astronomy by a university professor at one of these Institutes, they have crowded round his chair to obtain a solution of the difficulties which had suggested themselves to their minds in the course of his argument. In fact, we see no reason to doubt that the Huddersfield Mechanics' Institute, and those which follow in its steps, may effect among the manufacturing population the same objects which the universities do among the higher orders. Time was when Oxford was resorted to by thirteen thousand students of all ranks. Even in the seventeenth century, the class known by the name of "poor scholars" was not wholly extinct. The Canons of the Established Church require every beneficed clergyman to maintain at the university one such for every hundred pounds of his income. Eton and Winchester were then charity schools, and the scholars on the foundation were the sons of the peasantry. Our modern institutions are incompatible with this fusion of different classes,—there must now be one learning for the rich and another for the poor; and thus even the republic of letters has been merged into an aristocracy. But if the poor have been driven from the old universities which were founded expressly for their benefit,—and it is impossible to dispute the decree,—the least we can do for them is to encourage them to form universities for themselves.

Into a species of university are the Mechanics' Institutes gradually developing themselves. To the honours and degrees which they and the Society of Arts confer on the successful competitors in public examinations, the employers have agreed to give the same weight as is given to a university degree in the learned professions; and we cannot doubt that in conjunction with the system of open competition for appointments in the



civil service, this movement will give an impetus to secondary education such as it has never received since the middle ages, when the highest offices in the church were the objects of every poor scholar's ambition.

After Lord Goderich's practical speech, Sir John Pakington's crotchets about school-rates came in with a very bad grace. The worthy Baronet has never perhaps heard an old proverb about the facility of leading a horse to the water, and the difficulty of making him drink. Unfortunately school-houses and certificated teachers are not all that is wanted to educate the poor. The desire on the part of the young to learn, and on the part of their parents to send them to school, is the grand desideratum; and all the school-rates which vestries can pass will never supply this. In the higher ranks people send their boys to school as a preparation for college, which is the recognised preparation for success in active life. But what tangible advantage is gained to parent or child by the instruction imparted at a national school? Show the operatives of canny Yorkshire, on the contrary, that the knowledge which they obtain at a Mechanics' Institute will be a positive advantage to them in entering upon their trades, and the national schoolmaster will no longer have to lecture to empty benches on those objects of primary instruction introductory to that to be afterwards imparted in what we shall venture to call the People's Universities.

The Huddersfield Mechanics' Institute is a small but hopeful and respectable beginning; and we are sorry to observe that Mr. Baines went out of his way to try and make it ridiculous by lauding it at the expense of our ancient seats of learning. The mathematics, grammar, French, "correspondence, and phonography," learned by the mechanics of Huddersfield in their Institute, are not to be despised; but to say that "this series of subjects . . . was more useful, by far more extensive, more elevating, and more expanding to the human mind than the system of education in any university of this country fifty years ago," argues a strange amount either of ignorance or narrow-mindedness. If we except French, drawing and music, "correspondence and phonography," all that is taught at the Mechanics' Institute was necessarily included in the study of classics and mathematics, which have always formed the basis of our university course. But it is absurd to argue against such random talk. Notwithstanding Mr. Baines's "praise undeserved," we cherish the hope that these new educational institutions will be productive of much good; but we hardly expect that they are just yet qualified to turn out such scholars as Parr and Porson, such mathematicians as Herschel and Brinkley, or such statesmen as Canning and Wellesley.

#### THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

At the anniversary of this Society, on Monday last, Lord Wrottesley, President, in the chair, the President's annual Address was of more than usual interest. After reading the list of deaths, which amounted during the past year to twenty-six, and that of admissions into the Society, his lordship referred to the occupancy of Burlington House by the Society, in conjunction with the Linnean and Chemical Societies. The great hall, in which the Royal Society's valuable collection of portraits is to be hung, is nearly completed, and great hopes are entertained that the removal of the Society may take place early in the ensuing year. "On such an important question as an entire change of abode, and the abandonment of a locality occupied for so many years, and which is associated with many hallowed names and reminiscences, it is impossible to expect complete unanimity of opinion, and there may be some among us who still doubt the propriety of the step which has been taken, but they will, I am sure, give those who have approved of the change credit for having been actuated solely by a sincere wish to promote the interests of science and of this Society. I am, if possible, more than ever persuaded that great

and lasting benefit will accrue to science from our removal to a site more accessible to the great majority of our members, and from the other advantages which must follow in its train. It has been suggested that the two Societies about to be associated with the Royal, should hold their meetings for the future contemporaneously with those of the Royal Society, so that on those days on which the Linnean and Chemical Societies meet, their members may be enabled to join us in friendly converse after the business of the evening has been concluded. I hope I am not too sanguine in anticipating the greatest advantages from these assemblies of earnest cultivators of science, devoted followers of one of the most deeply interesting and important of all human pursuits, in a building not only adorned with the portraits of some of the most distinguished men who ever shed the lustre of their genius on the country which gave them birth, but containing on its walls in convenient juxtaposition those scientific libraries, the accumulated treasures of ages of unwearied research. It cannot be but that, on such a spot and in such society, even the diligent cultivator of science will be stimulated to greater exertions."

The disposal of the annual grant from Government was next adverted to, and Lord Wrottesley announced the wish of the Council to form a museum of instruments purchased for scientific purposes, "thus in some measure reverting to the practice of ancient times, with this difference, that whereas the apparatus of those days was necessarily primitive and rude, the instrumental museum about to be constituted will probably contain some of the choicest specimens of the workmanship of our most accomplished artisans."

The important question, whether any measures can be adopted by the Government or Parliament that will improve the position of science or its cultivators in this country, is considered at some length. It being understood that Lord Palmerston was willing to take into favourable consideration any proposal for the benefit of science that should meet with approval by its most trustworthy representatives, the Council of the Royal Society conceived that the period had arrived in which the most ancient and venerable of all the Societies existing in this country for the cultivation of natural science was called upon to take some steps for the purpose of eliciting the opinion of its most active members on a question of such vital importance; accordingly it was resolved, "That it was expedient that the subject should receive the attention of the Council at an early period of the ensuing session, and that as a preliminary step its consideration should be referred to the Government Grant Committee." This committee appointed a sub-committee to take the question into consideration, and the result has been a valuable Report, embodying important suggestions. "Whether," says Lord Wrottesley, "it would be prudent to interfere with the performance of the Government Grant Committee is questionable, and it may be advisable not to disturb in any way the relations between the Royal Society and the Government; it is a more difficult question, however, to determine whether it would be proper to invest the President and Council, or the Government Grant Committee appointed by them, either with or without changes in its organization, with the functions which it may be proposed to confide to a Board of Science. It will be admitted that its constitution ought to be such as should inspire the cultivators of science and the public in general with confidence in its administration. It ought also to be such as to ensure the confidence of Government and Parliament, so that measures recommended by it should meet with a favourable reception by them. These questions will doubtless receive all that mature consideration which their important bearing on the interests of science entitles them to, and I trust before the next anniversary measures may be adopted with the view of carrying out some of the recommendations contained in the Report of the sub-Committee of the Government Grant."

On the subject of affording public support to educational establishments where the elements of

physical science may be taught, Lord Wrottesley thus expresses himself:—"If this were necessary at any former period, it is still more called for now, when a system of examinations prior to the conferring of appointments seems to be gradually taking root, and likely to form an important part of our administrative organization. There seems no reason why the examination test should be confined to those who are candidates for Government situations; on the contrary, it seems exceedingly desirable that a plan of admitting all applicants who desire to be examined to the privileges of an examination should be adopted by the State. The effect of such a measure upon education generally will undoubtedly be most beneficial. A certificate might be given to each person examined of the extent of his acquirements. It would then be the part of employers to ascertain whether the holders of these certificates possessed in addition such qualifications as would fit them for the situations at their disposal. To such measures as those above and before recommended, together with the co-operation of the Department of Science and Art, and the unremitting exertions of the Committee of Privy Council for Education, presided over by its Vice-President or a Minister of Public Instruction, we must look for a gradual development of a more general taste for scientific studies, with its certain accompaniment, a proper appreciation of scientific acquirements and researches. Then and then only will science be generally recognised by a commercial and manufacturing population, who owe everything to her applications, not only as the very living principle and soul of the industrial arts, but as one of the most truly noble of all intellectual pursuits."

Another effort to solve the great Arctic mystery, and to recover, if possible, the magnetical observations and journals of the Franklin Expedition, is recommended on scientific as well as humane grounds. The risk, Lord Wrottesley observes, would be small, inasmuch as the exploration, instead of being, as formerly, a tentative one, embracing many thousand miles of unknown coast, would be confined to a fixed and limited locality, hitherto unexplored, and possessed of great scientific interest. "But," adds his lordship, "admit that there is danger in these enterprises, is it inglorious to perish in promoting human progress! You will not suspect me, I am sure, of being indifferent to the fate of brave men; but the fact is, it is well nigh impossible to add to our stock of physical knowledge without some risk to life. The astronomer in his observatory, exposed night after night to the open-air, at a freezing temperature; the chemist in his laboratory, among explosive and poisonous substances; the surgeon who handles the dissecting knife—all, equally with the adventurous traveller, expose their lives to peril. We know what was the opinion of the great Athenian moralist and martyr on this question, from that fine passage in which the dangers of military and civil life are so beautifully contrasted. 'I should have acted strangely, indeed,' says he, 'if, having stood firmly in the post assigned to me by my general at Amphipolis, Potidea, and Delium, and braved every danger, I had turned coward, and feared to die, when my God ordered me to be a philosopher and instruct mankind.'

"Whether men perish in peace or war, if they fall in advancing civilization, or arresting the progress of barbarism, what matters it whether their bones rest in a soldier's grave, or lie scattered, 'as where one heathen wood,' on the ice-bound shores of the Polar Sea? All are entitled to write above their remains—Go, tell our countrymen we lie here, having obeyed their commands, for everyone goeth forth to battle or to danger under an implied injunction to do his duty to the country of his birth."

The great and increasing benefits to science arising from the excellence of the meteorological instruments constructed at the Kew Observatory is noted, and a striking instance of the defects of the existing relations between science and the executive authorities of the State is mentioned in connexion with that establishment.

In order to increase its efficacy, it was neces-



ary to light it with gas. For this purpose 250*l.* were required. After a lengthy correspondence, Government declined to grant this sum. Immediately on receiving notice of this disappointment the Council voted the necessary amount, and the works are now in progress.

"Astronomers continue to add yearly to the catalogue of planetary bodies of our solar system several small planets revolving between Mars and Jupiter. The rapid progress of these discoveries is well illustrated by mentioning that, in 1852, no less than eight were discovered, in 1854, six, and in the present year five have been already added to the list. These planetoids now amount to forty-two."

The construction and erection of a large reflecting telescope in some desirable locality of the southern hemisphere, for the purpose of observing the nebulae, is strongly advocated. The scheme is not new, having been brought forward by Lord Rosse, the late distinguished President of the Royal Society, but although strongly advocated by the Council, the Government felt at the time unwilling to advance the necessarily large sum required for the construction of a large reflecting telescope.

"It is not difficult," says Lord Wrottesley, "to demonstrate the importance of this object. The great command of light possessed by the magnificent telescope of Lord Rosse has enabled him to detect certain configurations in the nebulae visible in this country which had escaped the notice of prior observers. I allude to the discovery of the spiral form of several of these curious objects. Now this is a fact of very peculiar interest, as bearing upon important questions of physical astronomy."

"Do certain laws prevailing in our own system, and even in many stellar groups comparatively near to us, extend to the very remote regions of space tenanted by the nebulae. Many ages must probably elapse before these questions can be solved, but it is a duty we owe to posterity to hand down to them the data required for solving them, and it is necessary for that purpose that accurate drawings should be now made of the present appearances of these objects, and preserved, that they may be compared with the observations of after times. Now, Lord Rosse is at present engaged in making detailed observations and drawings of the appearances presented by nebulae visible in these latitudes, and it is most desirable that a telescope, not much, if any, inferior in power to his, should be set up somewhere in the southern hemisphere, to perform for the nebulae there visible the like office as that performed by Lord Rosse for our own."

Lord Wrottesley then suggests that, as such a scientific labour would produce results in which the whole civilized world would be interested, it would be very desirable if many nations could be associated in carrying out so great an undertaking.

To accomplish this, extensive intercourse between scientific men in different countries is necessary—and if this could be brought about, other practical measures of great scientific utility would assuredly result. Among others, Lord Wrottesley adduces the desirableness of a liberal extension of our system of book-postage, which might be much advanced by prevailing on influential societies in different countries to urge its importance on their respective Governments, for, as Lord Wrottesley truly says, "It is really necessary that our energies should be directed to promoting the general diffusion of the scientific publications of all countries by every means in our power, in order that the evil may be arrested from which science has already suffered so much—viz., the devotion of time and of talents of the most transcendent order in one country to the performance of tasks which have already been satisfactorily completed in another."

In conclusion, Lord Wrottesley acknowledges his sense of the high honour conferred upon him by being elected President of the chief scientific Society of England, and although many considera-

tions might induce him to resign the trust reposed in him, he yet feels that so many important matters in connexion with the relations which ought to subsist between government and science, which have been undertaken since his election, remain still unsettled; and that, as it was principally with a view of assisting in improving, if possible, their relations, that he consented to accept the chair of the Royal Society; he is willing to continue his presidential labours, hoping to be enabled to prove, before he resigns, that on one important subject at least he has not laboured in vain.

The address, the leading features of which we have laid before our readers, was listened to throughout with the greatest attention by one of the largest assemblages of Fellows ever gathered together at the Royal Society's anniversary, and gave great and general satisfaction.

On the motion of Sir B. Brodie, seconded by Professor Powell, thanks were voted to Lord Wrottesley, and he was requested to print his address for circulation among the Fellows.

The medals were then presented—the Copley to M. Milne Edwards, who came over from Paris to receive it; the Rumford and the dividend accruing from the fund, to M. Pasteur; and the two royal medals to Sir John Richardson and Professor William Thomson.

The Society then proceeded to elect Council and officers for the ensuing year, and the following gentlemen were declared duly elected:—President, The Lord Wrottesley, M.A. Treasurer, Major-General Edward Sabine, R.A., D.C.L. Secretaries, William Sharpey, M.D., George Gabriel Stokes, Esq., M.A., D.C.L.; Foreign Secretary, William Hallows Miller, Esq., M.A. Other Members of the Council—James Moncreiff Arnott, Esq., William Benjamin Carpenter, M.D., Arthur Cayley, Esq., The Dean of Ely, William Fairbairn, Esq., Arthur Farre, M.D., William Robert Grove, Esq., M.A., Joseph Dalton Hooker, M.D., William Hopkins, Esq., M.A.; William Allen Miller, M.D., Lyon Playfair, Esq., Ph.D., Rev. Bartholomew Price, M.A., Rear-Admiral Sir James Clark Ross, D.C.L., Rear-Admiral W. H. Smyth, D.C.L., John Stenhouse, L.L.D., John Tyndall, Esq., Ph.D.

The names in italics are new Members of Council.

#### THE PROPOSED ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

ARE we, or are we not, to have a new Arctic expedition? The question has been effectually raised, in a form which demands a thoughtful and deliberate decision, be it favourable or otherwise. It is not enough to dismiss the inquiry with the ready suggestion that the whole subject is worn out, and the public are weary of risks and disappointments. There are still powerful motives at work, and curiosity is not yet satisfied. How far these inducements are sufficiently worthy to warrant the necessary expenditure of money and exposure of life, is the issue upon which public opinion and the judgment of Government will have to be exercised. There is, however, this one circumstance standing in the fore part of the inquiry, so important that it cannot be impressed too strongly upon the public mind. It is not an Arctic search in the former sense of the word that is now proposed; that is to say, the proposition does not involve a roving commission to traverse any portion of the Northern seas that may present itself most favourably, with a view to any one of three different objects: first, the Franklin search; secondly, the discovery of the North-West passage; and thirdly, geography and navigation generally as connected with the North Pole. The present suggestion implies nothing of the kind. Pure science may, at some future day, lead adventurers to attempt further approaches to the Pole; that, at least, is out of the question now: nor is the North-West passage any longer a subject of curiosity. It is solely to follow up the traces of the Franklin relics that it is proposed to send out a new body of explorers.

The proposition, as far as it has been hitherto explained, is to take a screw steamer in through Behring's Straits, along the line of the North American coast, the very track by which Captain

Collinson sailed in and out again; and by this means to reach the spot where Dr. Rae found the remains of the Franklin expedition, now to be seen in the Painted Hall at Greenwich, and which spot is known to be accessible by this route. Arrived there, the course would be to make searches and inquiries amongst the Esquimaux for remains or traditions of the missing squadron.

The immediate object is thus a precise and particular one. The route is well ascertained and strictly defined, and the area of search confined to narrow limits. Were it otherwise, our opinion has already been strongly expressed, that another expedition, of the same character as that of Captains Collinson and McClure, gallant as it was in performance and distinguished in results, is altogether to be condemned. But there can be no doubt whatever that the dangers and uncertainties attending the inquiry now suggested are very much less than those of any of the foregoing. The presence of Dr. Kane in England has been the occasion for the movement on the part of the body of Arctic navigators, whose views have been already submitted to the Prime Minister, and have been recently expressed by the letters of Lieutenant Pim and Captain Collinson. The strong point of their case lies in the fact, that the journey they recommend is comparatively plain sailing, whilst they insist upon the duty of following out to the utmost every clue that fortune has thrown into our hands with respect to Franklin and his companions. The impression seems to prevail that something may yet be discovered, and the reflection will be a bitter one in after years, that the chance of discovery was suffered to be irretrievably lost. Lieutenant Pim, indeed, does not hesitate to hold out the sanguine hope, entertained by one or two other Arctic men, that survivors of the Franklin crews may still be living amongst the Esquimaux; we cannot think, however, that he strengthens his case by putting it upon any such chimerical grounds. The collection of a few more relics of Sir John Franklin and his party, or the discovery of their last traces, the possible acquisition from the natives of some further facts, and the survey of a portion of country yet remaining unexplored, about King William Land and Ross's Straits, are all, we think, that can reasonably be expected, at a period of eleven years since the missing squadron wintered in Beechey Island. It is not difficult to suggest a multitude of objections to a plan, when any amount of risk is incurred to obtain only a slender or contingent gain. Perils which, in point of fact, are less than before, will be exaggerated, and the possible necessity of sending out further expeditions to look for the first will be suggested. But if the prospective advantages be slight in a matter-of-fact point of view, let it be well borne in mind that the hazard and risk are also very seriously diminished. And when it is insinuated that the principal fruits of the undertaking will be reaped by scientific men, we must remember that the public will share in these advantages; whilst Arctic navigators, to a man, recommend its adoption, and abundant volunteers are ready to brave its terrors. They may be under the influence of professional *esprit-de-corps*, or the excitement of hazardous enterprise; but their opinion, *valent quantum*, must be taken into account; and when able services are so eagerly tendered, is it becoming on our part to refuse them? It may safely be concluded that, if there should exist in the country the slightest feeling that anything remains undone which should have been attempted; if only the feeling survives that enough sacrifice has not yet been made to our sense of gratitude, to our sympathy with great sufferings, to our fond desire to succour the brave even against hope, every objection will be scattered to the winds. Englishmen will never permit Lady Franklin to perform a national duty for them. Men's lives must not, at the same time, be deliberately hazarded for a sentiment; all that the question reduces itself to is, the amount of the risk on the one hand, the possible gain on the other. The former we believe to be much less than is commonly supposed, the latter is to the last degree

uncertain. But with less chances in their favour, men have ere now set forth to discover unknown regions and to conquer empires, "not knowing whither they went." It is impossible to say what gifts fortune may have in store for the adventurous. We cannot help feeling that the weight of the decision must rest after all upon the well-considered and carefully-compared evidence of Arctic men; and if the present aspect of the question be well borne out by their testimony, that a "final Arctic search" is not only due to the claims of the public service, but will be found necessary for the conscientious satisfaction of the nation generally.

#### ADMIRAL BEECHEY, F.R.S.

THE obituary of the week includes the name of Rear-Admiral Frederick William Beechey, the President of the Royal Geographical Society, who died suddenly on Saturday last, in the sixty-first year of his age. The name of Admiral Beechey will be ever memorable among that band of distinguished officers of the British navy who of late have so remarkably united scientific to professional acquirements, and gained renown in times of peace by services as perilous and as honourable as those of warfare. In his young days he had borne his share in the trials and triumphs of hostile conflicts. Born Feb. 17th, 1796, the son of the well-known painter, Sir W. Beechey, R.A., he entered the navy in his tenth year, under the immediate charge of Earl St. Vincent, in the *Hibernia*, 110. After a brief service in the *Minotaur*, he accompanied Sir Sydney Smith, in the *Foudroyant*, 80, to Rio Janeiro. In 1811, while serving in the *Astrea*, 42, under Captain Schomberg, in company with the *Phæbe*, *Galatea*, and *Racehorse*, he assisted at the capture of the French frigates, *Renommée*, *Clorinde*, and *Nereide*. On his return to England, after some service in the Channel, he was appointed to the *Vengeur*, 74, forming part of the expedition to New Orleans, where he served in the boats which crossed the Mississippi with a detachment of troops, seamen, and marines, to make a diversion in favour of the general attack upon the American lines. March 10th, 1815, was the date of his first commission, and in September of that year he was appointed to the *Niger*, 38, on the North American station. Thus far the 'Naval Biography' records the war services of young Beechey. When the piping times of peace returned, a new career of ambition was opened to him. In January, 1818, he was appointed to the *Trent*, under Lieutenant and Commander Franklin, and departed on the first of four arctic voyages in which he took part. It was then that a friendship commenced with Franklin which was retained through life, and to which touching allusion was made in the address this year delivered by him from the chair of the Royal Geographical Society. An interesting account of the voyage of the *Trent* and the *Dorothea*, Captain Buchan (the senior officer of the expedition), was published by Beechey in 1843. In 1819 he was appointed to the *Hecla*, under the command of Lieutenant, afterwards Sir Edward Parry, and rendered useful service during that memorable expedition. On the 5th November, 1821, Lieutenant Beechey was appointed to the *Adventure*, under Captain (now Admiral) W. H. Smyth, the veteran hydrographer, then engaged in the survey of the northern coast of Africa. While on this service Beechey, promoted to the rank of Commander, was detached, along with his brother, H. W. Beechey, Esq., to explore the classic region of the old Greek Pentapolis, and especially to examine and report on the antiquities of the Cyrenaica. His narrative of the expedition, and description of the country and its antiquities, were published in 1828, under the title of 'Proceedings of the Expedition to Explore the Northern Coast of Africa, from Tripoli eastward, in 1821 and 1822; comprehending an Account of the Greater Syrtis and Cyrenaica, and of the Ancient Cities composing the Pentapolis.'

Attention has recently been recalled to this district by the work of Mr. J. Hamilton on Cyrene, who, in his preface, refers to the previous

explorations of Beechey. Circumstances prevented the explorations being carried out to the extent which was at first projected, but the brothers, in publishing their journal, could, with just pride, make the following statement:—"We have given to the world, we may say with the greatest accuracy, an extensive tract of coast which has been hitherto unsurveyed, and of which our best charts afforded a very imperfect outline, as will appear by a reference to the maps at the head of the work. We have obtained the plans of towns and places (rendered interesting by antiquity and by the rank which they hold in the pages of history) of which we have hitherto had no details; and have described, or made drawings of, every object of note, which has presented itself on the field of our operations."

In 1825, Commander Beechey was appointed to the *Blossom*, 24, in which ship he performed the voyages with which his name will be chiefly signalled in the annals of British enterprise and navigation.

In the light of the subsequent history of arctic discovery, it is now interesting to recall the objects and aspirations of other days, as they are expressed in Beechey's introductory remarks, echoing the Admiralty instructions under which he sailed in the *Blossom*. "In 1824, his late Majesty, having commanded that another attempt (to discover a north-west passage to the Pacific) should be made by way of Prince Regent's Inlet, an expedition was equipped—the last that sailed on this interesting service—and the command was again conferred upon Captain Parry, whose exploits have so deservedly earned for him the approbation of his country. At the same time, Captain Franklin, undaunted by his former perilous expedition, and by the magnitude of the contemplated undertaking, having, with the promptness and perseverance peculiar to his character, proposed to connect his brilliant discoveries at the mouth of the Coppermine River with the furthest known point on the western side of America, by descending the Mackenzie River, and with the assistance of his intrepid associate, Dr. Richardson, by coasting the northern shore in opposite directions towards the two previously-discovered points, his late Majesty was also pleased to command that this expedition should be simultaneously undertaken. From the nature of these services, it was nearly impossible that either of these expeditions should arrive at the open sea in Behring's Straits without having nearly, if not wholly, exhausted their resources, and Captain Franklin's party being in addition destitute of a conveyance to a place whence it could return to Europe. To obviate these anticipated difficulties, his Majesty's Government determined upon sending a ship to Behring's Straits to await the arrival of the two expeditions." Such was the immediate object of the voyage of the *Blossom*, but as a considerable period must elapse before her presence would be required in the north, and the time of the arrival of the arctic voyagers was uncertain, it was resolved to employ him in surveying such parts of the Pacific as were within his reach, or were of most consequence to navigation. The results of this voyage, which extended over three years, are well known in the history of geographical enterprise and of physical science. The 'Narrative' was published in 1831, in two volumes quarto, by authority of the Admiralty. In this voyage the utmost attention was paid to scientific observations, and the collection of specimens, the determination and description of which was undertaken by the highest authorities in each department.

The voyage of Beechey in the *Blossom*, besides the direct services rendered, is memorable as having given a new stimulus to the combination of scientific research with geographical exploration, and hydrographic surveying for the purposes of navigation. Among the officers of the expedition was Lieutenant, now Captain Sir Edward Belcher, who, in the records of his own voyages, acknowledges with grateful remembrance the direction given to his pursuits by the example and instruction of Beechey and his companions in the *Blossom*. In looking over the Narrative, we meet with many

notices of places which will be read with strange interest from the events, which they subsequently witnessed. At San Francisco, for instance, then a Spanish town, the chief object of curiosity was the Californian mode of throwing the lasso, and a spirited picture of a bull-fight illustrates the chapter. The visit to Otaheite and other familiar islands, and the discovery of the new groups named after Melville, Croker, and other Admiralty authorities of the day; the visit to Pitcairn Island, and the interview with Adams, the last survivor of the mutineers of the *Bounty*, whose descendants have lately migrated to Norfolk Island; the Chinese coast explorations; and the accounts of other places now better known to Western Europe, will arrest the attention of the reader, and suggest reflections on the subsequent history of these parts of the world. It was in 1827 that Beechey, promoted to the rank of Captain, discovered in the arctic regions a commodious harbour, south-east of Cape Prince of Wales, which he named after his godfather, William IV., Port Clarence. Beechey returned to England in 1828, after a voyage of upwards of 70,000 miles, and an absence of three years passed both in arctic and tropical climates, during which he rendered important services to science and to navigation. The narrative was published in two quarto volumes, and in two separate volumes the Botany and Zoology of the expedition. In a previous work he had given an account of a voyage to the North Pole. The well-known Beechey Island commemorates his services in these regions. In 1835 he was appointed to the *Sulphur*, for the purpose of continuing the survey of the Pacific, but failure of health compelled him to return soon after reaching the South American coast. From 1837 to 1847 Captain Beechey was engaged in the survey of the Bristol and Irish Channels, and to his labours is mainly due the formation of the accurate charts of these seas which we now possess. He also carried on a series of tidal observations, which were continued down to last year, and in his Address from the chair of the Royal Geographical Society, he had the satisfaction of announcing in the following terms the completion of this important work:—"I am happy to be able to announce the completion of an important series of observations upon the tidal streams of the seas around our own shores, which have been carried on for several years in a small vessel, which the Admiralty liberally placed at my disposal. These observations are of great importance as regards this particular branch of science, as they satisfactorily establish, in tidal waves of a peculiar character, the existence of a simultaneous turn of stream throughout the wave, notwithstanding the remarkable fact of there being a progressively increasing tidal establishment. This theory was advocated in two papers under my own hand, printed in the 'Transactions' of the Royal Society; and it has now been further confirmed by numerous observations. The result will facilitate and simplify the navigation of our channels, and will affect much that has been written upon the subject of tides." In 1847 Captain Beechey was empowered by the Government to constitute and superintend the Marine department of the Board of Trade, a service in which he was actively and usefully employed till the day of his death. He was promoted to the rank of Rear-Admiral in 1854, and in the following year was elected to the office of President of the Royal Geographical Society. The Address, delivered on the 26th May, 1856, before that scientific body, and since published, presents an admirable survey of the recent progress of geographical science, and an account of the important discoveries and researches made during the past year. The words with which he concluded his Address attest the zealous and enlightened views with which he presided over the Society, while affording a gratifying proof of the genial and liberal feeling which led him to associate his scientific pursuits with the higher objects of advancing human civilization, and spreading throughout the world the blessings of Christianity.



## GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

THE death of the great Oriental scholar, M. Hammer-Nurgstall, whose dangerous illness we noticed last week, took place on the 26th ult., at Vienna. Baron von Hammer was born in 1774, at Gratz, in Styria, where his father occupied an honourable position in the public service. From his earliest childhood, a mysterious influence seemed to draw him towards the East. In 1788, he was allowed to gratify his inclinations by entering the then recently instituted Oriental Academy at Vienna, where he attracted the notice of the celebrated Jenisch, who availed himself of his services in the preparation of his edition of Meninski's Lexicon. About this time he produced several poems, both original and translated, from the eastern languages. In 1799, he was sent as dragoman to Constantinople, whence he was transferred to Egypt, and employed as interpreter to the English army in Abercrombie's campaign. He was subsequently *attaché* to the Austrian Embassy at Constantinople, and Consul in Moldavia. In 1811, he became interpreter to the Vienna Chancery. In 1817, he was made a counsellor, and in 1835 a baron. Of late years he had retired from the public service, and lived on his estates in Styria. His works are numerous, the most important being his 'Encyclopædic View of Oriental Science,' 1804; 'Glance at Turkish Literature,' 1816; 'History of Persian Belles Lettres,' 1818; 'History of the Assassins,' 1818; 'History of the Ottoman Empire,' 1827-34; 'History of Ottoman Poetry,' 1830-38; 'The Mongols in Russia,' 1840; 'The Mongols in Persia,' 1843. The value of these works is great, but it has been thought to be lessened by a propensity to romantic speculation, and, in the case of the Ottoman history, by an undue, though not unnatural, bias in favour of the House of Austria. The baron's philological labours were less esteemed, being considered to display more learning and research than philosophical depth or logical exactness. Baron Hammer was ex-President and Senior Member of the Vienna Academy of Science, and is said to have won the decorations of twenty different orders, and to have been a member of almost every literary society in the world. His remains were borne to the grave by the students of the Oriental Academy, of which, as we have mentioned, he had been one of the earliest students.

Dr. Livingstone, whose arrival has been expected with so much interest, will give an account of his expedition across the African continent at the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society on Monday evening. He is to dine on that day with the Geographical Club at the Thatched House Tavern, and on Tuesday will be welcomed by a public reception at the Freemasons' Tavern.

A literary pension of 100*l.* has been conferred upon Mr. Philip James Bailey, author of 'Festus' and other poems.

On Monday evening, the Royal Society of Edinburgh commenced its session, at the Society's rooms in the Royal Institution, the opening address being delivered by Bishop Terrot, one of the Vice-Presidents. For some time past there has been a strong desire to enlarge the scope of this Society, so as to include departments which have not hitherto received a sufficient share of attention. The papers in the Transactions bearing the names of Robison, Ivory, Hutton, Playfair, Hall, Hope, Brewster, and Sir D. Forbes, attest the services rendered to the mathematical and physical sciences by the members of the north. Scotland has acquired a name equally distinguished in literature, philology, and, above all, in mental philosophy, through the labours of Smith, Reid, Dugald Stewart, Sir W. Hamilton, and their disciples, but few of the laurels in these departments are associated with the records of the Royal Society. It is proposed that these and other subjects, including ethnology and geography, should receive greater prominence in the Proceedings, and this proposal formed a conspicuous topic in Bishop Terrot's inaugural address. The volumes of the Transactions have

occasionally presented papers on literary subjects, but at rarer intervals than the Society now contemplates. At the same time, we may observe that the object would have been more likely to be carried into immediate and practical operation, had the list of new office-bearers presented a larger proportion of men distinguished in those studies to which it is desired to give more prominence. On the same night, the annual meeting was held of the Architectural Institute of Scotland, and also of the Society of Antiquaries, and as there were *conversazioni* at each of the three places, and all the leading notables of the city were invited, the literary and scientific people of Edinburgh seem to have held quite a festival on the occasion. At the Architectural Institute, the Lord Provost Melville presided, and the introductory address was delivered by Lord Neaves. In the course of his remarks he referred to a practical method in which the Institute might exert important influence in directing the style of the city architectural improvements. In a town like Edinburgh, of manageable size, with a magnificent situation, and splendid building quarries on the spot, there is facility for carrying out any architectural scheme, if only the directing genius and taste are present, and the spirit displayed by the Institute affords some security that these will not be wanting.

Among medical men the leading topic of the week has been the appearance of a work on 'Poisoning by Strychnia,' by Dr. Taylor, which contains matter of public as well as professional interest. The trial of William Palmer will be memorable in the records of medical jurisprudence, as his offences will be ever remembered in the annals of crime. It was not the unusual poison made use of, nor the terrible symptoms it produced, nor the alleged difficulty of its detection, nor any recondit questions of physiology and pathology that gave the chief interest to this particular case. These points, and all others connected with poisoning by strychnia, are described and discussed by Professor Taylor, with a scientific accuracy, elaborate learning, and logical acuteness, that render his treatise a complete monograph on the subject, for the information and guidance of professional men. But there are other questions of wider interest arising out of the trial of Palmer, affecting the general principles of medico-legal evidence, and the character and usages both of legal and medical practitioners. The defence of Palmer was made to rest on a double fallacy, a perversion of fact and of principle. 1. The jury were told that if poison had been given, poison must be detected by chemical analysis. 2. They were told that if chemistry had not discovered poison, the prisoner could not be capitally convicted. In commenting on these two points, Dr. Taylor speaks with severe but just reprobation of the conduct of some of the medical and chemical witnesses, and of the counsel for the prisoner, who, for the temporary purpose of saving a wretched criminal, ventured to maintain fallacies opposed to scientific truth, and dangerous to the public welfare. Dr. Taylor shows that there are many poisons which defy detection by analysis; and with respect to strychnia, the experiments and testimony of the highest authorities in all countries prove that under certain circumstances its discovery may be impossible. The formula,—no poison found, no death by poison,—as used by Serjeant Shee, was a bold attempt to make the jury believe an untruth. The erroneous principle also attempted to be laid down was, that moral and physiological proofs of guilt are comparatively of no account in the absence of chemical evidence. No one has done more than Professor Taylor for bringing chemical science to bear upon medical jurisprudence, but he has pointed out the danger of giving to chemistry more than its legitimate place in the detection of crime or the estimate of guilt. The chief chemical witness for the defence has since declared his conviction that Palmer poisoned his victim by strychnia, but that the crown witnesses had not used a sufficiently delicate process for its detection. Thus, along with a professional self-advertisement, in itself not very creditable, is avowed an attempt to defeat the ends of justice by

standing on the physical point of a dubious colour-test, against the accumulation of moral and legal proof of guilt. Some of the witnesses called for the defence made assertions which led to the observation, that "with a little search, medical men could be got to prove anything!" The elaborate analysis of the evidence by Professor Taylor, and his comments on the legal conduct of the defence, will be of great value both for warning and guidance in all similar cases in future.

The sale of the library of Mr. Haseldine Pepys, F.R.S., noticed last week, commenced on Wednesday at Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson's rooms. On the first day a choice collection of books on angling was dispersed, including a first edition of Isaac Walton, which sold for 6*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*; the fourth edition of the 'Complete Angler,' 3*l.* 6*s.*; Bagster's second edition of 'Walton and Cotton's Angler,' 4*l.* 10*s.* The first edition of Bewick's 'British Birds,' a prize for artists, naturalists, or antiquaries, sold for 8*l.*; Dibdin's 'Bibliographical Tour,' 3 vols., 6*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; a black-letter 'Froissart,' in English (Pynsen), 1523-5, 27*l.* 15*s.* A set of Houbraken and Vertue's engravings, 108 heads, 8*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* A manuscript Bible, on vellum, of the fifteenth century, 15*l.* 15*s.* A magnificent Breviary, printed at Vienna, in 1478, by Jensen, 43*l.* Several missals fetched high prices: one of the sixteenth century, a splendid MS. in vellum, 78*l.* 10*s.* The first folio of Shakespeare, 1623, the last leaf being reprinted, and the title, with the head by Droeshout inserted, but the leaf of verses wanting, 21*l.*; the second impression of 1632, 10*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; the third, 1664, 18*l.* The first edition of Milton's 'Paradise Lost,' a curious and valuable copy, with autographs of Jonathan Richardson, and of Stevens, the commentator of Shakespeare, an office copy of the assignment of the copyright, and the four titles issued at different stages of the sale of the impression of 1300 copies, 21*l.* The sale of books concludes to-morrow, and next week will be sold the collections of coins, antiquities, and miscellaneous objects.

At the sale yesterday of the late Mr. Yarrell's specimens of natural history, the most remarkable purchase was that of an egg for 21*l.*, the egg of the Great Auk, a bird of the diver tribe, included in the British Fauna, but long since extinct. An egg of the Broad-billed Sandpiper fetched 1*l.* 9*s.*; an egg of the Grey Phalarope, 1*l.* 10*s.*, and one of the Golden Eagle, 2*l.* 10*s.* A specimen of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper, 5*l.* 5*s.*, and of the Spotted Sandpiper, 1*l.* 13*s.* Among miscellaneous objects a large drawing in water-colours, *View on the Thames*, by Aaron Penley, selected, we believe, by Mr. Yarrell, for an eighty-guinea prize in the Art Union, sold for 27*l.* 6*s.* Bewickiana, a valuable miscellaneous collection of proof wood-engravings, 9*l.* 15*s.*; and a miscellaneous lot of woodcuts by Albert Durer, 5*l.* 10*s.*

The death of the Rev. R. Hussey, B.D., who has been Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History since the institution of the chair fourteen years since, is announced as having occurred at Oxford on the 2nd instant.

Leave of absence for a year has been granted to the Rev. H. O. Cox, under-librarian of the Bodleian library, who is about to travel in the East to collect MSS. for the Government.

Among the promotions consequent upon the death of Rear-Admiral Beechey, there is one which men of science and those interested in Arctic discovery will hail with pleasure—that of Captain Sir James Clark Ross, C.B., to be Rear-Admiral of the Blue.

M. Ponsard, the well-known dramatic writer of France, was on Thursday formally received by the Académie Française as one of its members. In accordance with the usual custom, he delivered a eulogium on the predecessor in the chair to which he has been elected. This predecessor was M. Baour-Lormain, a "poet" of Ponsard's own quality, but chiefly famous (if famous he can be said to be) as translator of Ossian. After the eulogium M. Ponsard launched out into a defence of the classical school of tragedy, and he boldly placed it high above the romantic. He in consequence

thought himself justified in saying some very sharp things of Shakspeare, and with wonderfully cool impudence placed him below Racine and Molière. Yet, with all this, he graciously designated him the "divine Williams." M. Nisard (not M. Guizot, as had been announced in some of the papers) replied to the harangue of the *bourgeois* "poet."

The International Congress of Statistics, on its meeting in Paris last year, charged a special committee of its members who remained in that city to fix the place and time of the next meeting. This committee has, we learn, just decided that the next meeting of the Congress shall be held at Vienna, in the course of the ensuing year.

Dr. Pauli, author of 'The Life of Alfred the Great,' a gentleman well known in this country, but who has been residing lately at Bonn, has received an appointment as professor at Munich, the place at present which has, of all the towns in Germany, the greatest attraction for literary and scientific men as well as artists.

M. Chevreul, the French chemist, is at present engaged in analysing the materials of which the statues found in the recently discovered Serapeum in Egypt are composed. Amongst other things he has ascertained that they contain lead.

The town of Ayen, in France, has just presented Jasmin, its barber-poet, with a gold vase ornamented with fruits in silver, and bearing the inscription, "Ayen to Jasmin." This town is the Provençal bard's native place.

The Academy of Sciences of Paris, in receiving in its last sitting a copy of Sir W. Snow Harris's 'Shipwrecks by Lightning,' allowed, contrary to its usual custom, one of its members to give a detailed account of the principal contents of the volume, and it listened to it with marked interest.

## FINE ART

### THE SOULAGES COLLECTION.

THE arrangement and description of the Soulages Collection, preparatory to its public exhibition on Monday, at Marlborough House, is rapidly approaching completion. Part I. of the Catalogue, now in the press, comprises only 166 out of the 790 objects which make up the collection, and extends only to the following classes of articles:—Majolica ware, enamelled earthenware, including the *faïence* of Palissy, and of the South of France, and Flemish stoneware, called *Grès de Flandres*. These pieces will be found in the first two rooms devoted to the exhibition at Marlborough House. It is scarcely necessary to recapitulate the few leading facts connected with the appearance in this country of this very remarkable assemblage of works of art. M. Soulages, we may mention, originally commenced collecting at Paris, from whence he removed, taking his acquisitions with him, to Toulouse, his native city. Here he continued his favourite pursuit, resisting all offers that were made to induce him to part with separate specimens, until the late negotiation was opened for the entirety. The purchase was completed, on behalf of the English Committee, for a sum amounting, with interest, to 11,000*l.*; the expenses of valuation, packing, carriage, insurance, reaching about 2000*l.* more, making 13,000*l.* in all. A list of the subscribers is appended to an abstract of the agreement under which the guarantee fund, of not less than 15,000*l.*, was contributed, together with the proportions in which the advances were made. Messrs. Dudley Counts Marjoribanks, Matthew Uzielli, and Henry Cole, are the managers. The agreement provides that the collection be offered to the Government at such a price as will cover the prime cost with expenses, and if not so pur-

chased, the whole is to be sold by auction prior to the 1st July, 1858.

The collection itself may be divided into three main classes—viz., Majolica, Bronzes, and Cinque-cento furniture. Of these the first is now a well-known and thoroughly appreciated article of *virtù*, the collection of which has become a passion amongst amateurs: the second is a class of very rare occurrence in England, and with respect to which it is difficult to give quotations of prices from sales; and much the same may be said of the third. Hence the marketable value of the collection in England is not easily estimated; but the great rise in the price of Majolica ware of late years in this country is a fact about which there can be no dispute. It has been stated, and as far as appears with perfect truth, that never was so complete a collection of Majolica of high average beauty and excellence exhibited in England before. Hitherto this manufacture has borne various names, as Raffaele or Faenza ware; but the increased attention paid to the subject in modern times has dissipated the theory about Raffaele having himself superintended the painting of plates and dishes, though many of the designs are after him. So not Faenza alone, but Urbino, Castel Durante, Gubbio, and Pesaro, all lying on the east coast of Italy, were famous seats of this fabrication. The art doubtless flourished under many masters, whose names further research may reveal to us; but foremost among those with whom we are acquainted stands Maestro Giorgio, of Gubbio. In this artist's works the collection is remarkably rich; and particularly in that class of them which possess the beautiful iridescent crimson or ruby lustre associated with his name. Mr. Robinson, the curator of the Marlborough-house museum, who most ably edits the catalogue, states, however, that the ruby lustre was *not* the invention of Giorgio, though carried by him to a high state of perfection. This master flourished from about 1518 to 1537.

Of the 133 pieces of Majolica in the collection, perhaps the most imposing are the magnificent plateaux, with raised medallion centres, and borders of arabesque and other ornaments, which are grouped together in the second room. The plateau (4) is particularly splendid, not only in the brilliancy of the ruby and gold lustres, but in the admirable character of the design. It is unquestionably from the hand of Giorgio. Another (9) gives a bust portrait of Pietro Perugino, on a deep blue background, with a border and four circular medallions, on which are painted birds in their natural colours. The superiority of this work asserts itself at once, and it is attributed to the artist, or to one of the family of artists, who executed works at Caffaggiolo, a villa of the Medici family near Florence. The design is of the most masterly description. Some of the smaller dishes or plates exhibit the brilliancy of the lustre as much or more than the plateaux, and it appears that the secret of the colouring, which is now entirely lost, was handed down for a short period among the pupils of Giorgio at Gubbio. A plate (18), however, with a design from Raffaele, displays the hand of the master himself. Another (19), justly described as one of the choicest morceaux of the collection, representing the full-faced bust of a young girl, with the inscription, *Amaro chi me amara*, is by a master of great power and delicacy, whose name is unknown. No. 42 may be selected as displaying, though dull in colour, a most remarkable variety of prismatic glazing, being, in fact, the true *lustro madreperla* of the Italians. A perforated tray or basket (48) will attract attention from its elegant constructive form, though undistinguished as a work of art. No. 58, a small tazza, may be taken as one

of the best specimens of the style of Giorgio in composition. The date is fixed from internal evidence at 1526; and the figures, a nude male and female embracing in an open landscape, with an amorino on the left, are remarkably able in design and colouring. It is considered that this cup may vie in brilliancy of colour with the finest *paste tendre* porcelain of Sévres.

No. 84, which is a group in full relief "in the round," intended for an inkstand, and representing a young man playing an organ, with a boy working the bellows, will attract every eye. It is a very curious and striking group: the organ is of architectonic design, and the chair on which the musician sits is illustrated by a piece of furniture, close by in the room, from the same collection. This has been engraved in Du Sommerard's 'Les Arts au Moyen Age.' The vase (91) may be pointed out as the most perfect specimen of Giorgio's art, in perfection of lustre, enamel glaze, and depth and power of the blue pigment. A large two-handled vase (95) is of great importance, as illustrating a style prevalent in Spain during the Moorish dominion. The Saracens appear to have carried this manufacture with them wherever they went, and to have imported from the East the remarkable glazes and lustres which these works exhibit. A plaque (119), representing St. Jerome in a landscape, is distinguished for the force and purity of the design, and the brilliant enamel glaze and colours with which it has been finished. Nor should mention be omitted of the large oval cistern (130), which occupies the table in the first room, painted profusely, and in a practised flowing hand, with subjects representing Diana and her nymphs, an important specimen alike of art and manufacture.

The Palissy ware consists of twenty-three pieces. The first in the catalogue (134) is one of the most striking, from the boldness and accuracy of design of the large snake, the fish, pebbles, &c., which are represented, as the heralds say, all proper. The oval ewer (144), however, is in a far higher style of production, as relates to art. It is doubted whether Bernard Palissy could have produced a design of so much beauty, and the composition is assigned to one of his contemporaries,—perhaps Jean Goujon. This is certainly one of the most beautiful specimens of its class.

A plateau (157) is remarkable, as illustrating an attempt by a Swiss die-sinker, Euderlein, to assume the honours of a composition due to François Briot, a Frenchman. The particulars will be found in Mr. Robinson's description.

Finally, in this class we meet with eight pieces of *Grès de Flandres*, with which this portion of the catalogue closes. Two more parts at least will be necessary to complete the collection. The catalogue is at present imperfect, and under revision; but when the necessary alterations and corrections have been made, the ability and knowledge already displayed by Mr. Robinson will exhibit themselves to full advantage.

The prospects of the forthcoming Manchester Exhibition continually improve. The Marquis of Hertford has at length promised a selection from that collection of fabulous excellence of which the world has heard so much. Miss Burdett Coutts contributes fifteen choice pictures, including a Raphael, a Paul Veronese, a Tintoretto, three Oliveris, a Wilson, a Gainsborough, and a Reynolds. Lord Dunmore, of Dunmore Park, near Falkirk, offers six works by the following masters:—N. Poussin, Velasquez, Dosso Dossi, Giulio Romano, L. da Vinci, and Salvator Rosa. The Earl of Pembroke, through Mr. Sydney Herbert, offers thirteen subjects of painting and sculpture. Amongst them is a *Judith* by Andrea Mantegna, a *Card Party* by Lucas van Leyden, two subjects by Rubens, and a Vandyk. Three of the sculptures are after Praxiteles. Lord Cowper has promised some of the treasures of Panshanger; Mr. Stirling, M.P., a selection from his large collection of bronzes, engravings, and pictures; and amongst other contributors are Mr. John



Chapman, of Hill-end, Mottram; Mr. Samuel Ashton, of Oaklands, Cheshire; Mr. Thomas Townsend, of Belmont Park, near London; Mr. R. Bashall, of Farrington's Lodge, Preston; Mr. J. Bickerstaff, of Preston; Mr. William Marshall, M.P., Sir Culling Eardley, and Lord Listowel. More recent announcements inform us that twelve of the Woburn pictures will be added to the collection, including several famous works—Allon's *Death of the Regent Murray*, Sir C. Eastlake's *Pilgrims in View of Rome*, and Newton's *Casket Scene in Gil Blas*. The Earl of Winton contributes two pictures by Lawrence, one by Sanfranco, and another by Weenix, besides several valuable works in the precious metals. Lord Hatherton will send his Hobbins, and Mr. Davenport, of Capertown, places his collection of Etruscan vases at the service of the Committee. Mr. J. F. Wadmore, of Upper Clapton, also will send his celebrated Annibale Carracci. From the north the contributions will be numerous. Among them the Duke of Buccleuch promises nine pictures, Lord Wemyss and March three, Mr. J. Gibson Craig five; and Mr. Graham, of Balgarny, Major Moir, Mr. and Mrs. Coombes, and Mr. Russell, of Edinburgh, will also contribute. The Royal Scottish Academy and the Scottish Society of Antiquaries promise their support. The Marquis of Breadalbane offers an important picture by Ræburn, and Lord Kinnaird is expected to contribute.

Crowds nightly flock to Mr. Albert Smith, though his story of Mount Blanc is no longer the attraction. After the multitude of recent ascents, some of them by ladies and by youths from school, no audience could listen with gravity to the old tale of peril and adventure. But the name of the entertainment is wisely retained, *stat magni nominis umbra*, and the views by Mr. Beverley are shown during a pause in the monologue. The chief novelty this year is the sketch of life at Baden Baden. The description of the dreary *table d'hôte* is excellent, and the scenes of the Fair, especially the German showman, are sublime pieces of humour and mimicry.

A new altar, from a design by Zwirner, is now being erected in the Chapel of the Virgin, in the Cathedral of Cologne. As soon as it is completed, it will be surmounted by the new altar-piece painted by Overbeck. Behind the old altar was found a fresco, which unfortunately suffered considerable injury. The subject of it is the death of the Virgin. The picture had been conceived in the simple naïve spirit of the earlier artists of the middle ages. The dead body of the Virgin is represented stretched out on the bier, and behind it stands the Saviour, with the soul of "the Mother of God," in the form of a young girl with folded hands, leaning on his arm; on the right and left angels swinging smoking censers, and tapers lighted up.

The French government seems determined that the Crimean war shall be immortalized in painting. In addition to the works it has already ordered from different artists, and which have been mentioned in these columns, it has just commissioned two artists, M. Barrias and M. Doré, to paint,—the former the *Descent of the French Army in the Crimea*, the latter the *Battle of Inkermann*.

We have to announce that the period fixed for the reception of works destined for the coming exhibition of the works of living artists, in Paris, is from the 1st to the 10th of February; after six o'clock of the latter date no works will be received. We stated in our last that the exhibition is to open on the 25th of March.

It has been officially decided that an exhibition of the works of living artists shall take place at the Hague next year, but the precise epoch of it has not yet been fixed.

An exhibition of the works of living artists is now open at Marseilles; it consists of 450 works, contributed by 217 artists. Almost every great town in France has now its annual exhibition, and it is greatly to be desired that the same could be said of our own country. Frequent exhibitions develop and refine the taste for art amongst the people, and are highly beneficial to artists.

# MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

THE season of the Sacred Harmonic Society commenced last Friday week with the performance of Handel's *Solomon*. This oratorio, of which the original manuscript is preserved in the royal collection at Buckingham Palace, was first publicly performed at Covent Garden, March 17th, 1749. Its composition was begun on the 11th July of the previous year, and finished within a month, as appears from an appended memorandum in these words:—"G. F. Handel, August 9, 1748, ætatis 63." It is, therefore, one of Handel's latest works, the only ones subsequently written being *Theodora* in 1749, and *Jephtha* and the *Triumph of Time and Truth* in 1751. Of freshness of invention and sustained vigour there is some deficiency in *Solomon*, the result either of the rapid composition, or the declining years of the composer. But there are passages in his noblest style, and several of the choruses are surpassed only by a few of those in his greatest works. The oratorio is in the form of a sacred drama, in three parts; the first, descriptive of the dedication of the Temple, and of the king's piety and early conjugal happiness; the second, of his wisdom, illustrated by the celebrated decision; and the third, of his riches and power, as witnessed by the Queen of Sheba. The words are in metrical rhyme, very feebly poetical, but they tell the story with sufficient clearness, and do not impede the musical effects, except in the recitatives, which are somewhat tedious. The first part presents several double choruses of great grandeur, and concludes with a nuptial hymn, a choral melody of exquisite sweetness. Part the second opens with a royal anthem in praise of Solomon, with some splendid choral effects. Then follows the dramatic scene of the appeal of the two women and the king's judgment, the gem of this part of the oratorio being the pathetic address of the true mother. The trio that succeeds is a wonderful piece of art, and after some tiresome dialogue and recitative, the scene terminates with a burst of choral praise in which homage is paid to the king's wisdom. In the third part the most remarkable feature is a succession of four choruses descriptive of different passions excited by the music played before the Queen of Sheba. The first is tender and soothing, to the words—

"Music, spread thy voice around,  
Sweetly flow the lulling sound."

Then follows a martial chorus, recalling scenes of tumult and battle. This is succeeded by a plaintive expression of hopeless love, and, lastly, the restoration of peace and of joy. Each of these pieces is admirable, and the effects are heightened by the great contrast in their styles. The double chorus, "Praise the Lord with harp and tongue," is in Handel's grandest manner, and with this the oratorio might well have concluded, as what follows is of less power. The performance at Exeter Hall was of a high order, and the more praise is due since the oratorio has not been given for some years past. No improvement could be desired in the orchestral music, and the choral singing was unusually correct and effective. To Mr. Costa's able direction this success is owing, and his judgment and taste also appeared in occasional curtailments and reinforcements of the original score of the oratorio. The solo singers were Madame Rudersdorff (first woman), Miss Sherrington (second woman and the Queen), Miss Dolby (Solomon), Mr. Montem Smith (Zadok), Mr. Thomas (a Levite). The latter is an unimportant part, but Mr. M. Smith has several tenor airs, which he gave in a manner that justified his having been entrusted with his leading part. Miss Sherrington's singing was correct, but lacking in expression. The contralto airs and recitatives of Solomon were finely given by Miss Dolby, than whom there is no better interpreter of Handel's music. In the judgment scene, Madame Rudersdorff sang with a dramatic expression as well as an artistic skill, which had a thrilling effect, and elicited the most marked sympathy of the audience. Mr. Costa, at his entrance, and at the close of the performance, received a cordial greeting, and thus was

inaugurated auspiciously the twenty-sixth season of the Sacred Harmonic Society. Handel's *Messiah* is announced for the 12th inst., the principal vocalists being Mrs. Clara Hepworth, who made her first public appearance at the Gloucester Festival this summer, Miss Dolby, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Herr Fornes.

At Baden Baden, last season, a new opera, by the French composer Clapisson, the libretto by M. de Saint Georges, called *Le Sylphe*, was brought out. It has within the last two days been produced at the Opéra Comique at Paris with a fair degree of success: but though of more pretension than his previous works, it is not likely, we hear, to attain the same degree of popularity. It is described to us as displaying not a little of the art of the musician, but as deficient in originality. Duprez's daughter, Madame Van der Heuvel, sings the principal part in it excellently well.

Meyerbeer's *Robert le Diable* has just passed the twenty-fifth anniversary of its first performance at Paris, yet its extraordinary popularity is in nowise diminished.

The Academy of Fine Arts at Paris has elected M. Mercadante, the Neapolitan composer, a foreign Associate, in the room of the late M. Canina.

A weekly newspaper, devoted exclusively to music, is advertised to appear in the Hungarian language at Pesth, from the 1st January next.

The only theatrical novelty mentioned in our Paris letters is a comedy at the Théâtre Française, in three acts, entitled *Les Pauvres d'Esprit*. It is by M. Leon Laya, who is not new to the stage, but is described to us as being rather dull. It seems to be written with the object of proving to sentimental young ladies that staid lawyers and architects make better husbands than literary men, and especially than poets.

# LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—Nov. 24th.—T. J. Pettigrew, Esq., V.P., in the chair. Twenty-seven new Associates were announced, among whom were Lord Auckland, Bishop of Bath and Wells, Col. Tynte, M.P., Capt. Scobell, M.P., Mr. Tite, M.P., Sir Peregrine Acland, Bt., Sir A. H. Elton, Bt., the Rev. H. M. Searth, Rev. J. E. Jackson, Rev. H. Street, Daniel Gurney, F.S.A., &c. &c. Several presents were received. Mr. C. Ainslie exhibited an early iron padlock, found in Fleet-ditch. It was of a globular form, and so constructed that the whole shackle could be drawn out when the bolt is thrown back. Mr. Grimston produced some articles of domestic use found in Ireland, among which were a pair of nutcrackers of the time of William III., found in Londonderry. Mr. Wood brought specimens of pottery and glass found in Cannon-street West, some of which were curious, and exhibited the effects of having been long buried in the earth. Mr. Wills read a paper on pretended finds of Egyptian figures in London, and exhibited specimens that had been brought to him. Their Egyptian character was sufficiently distinct, and they consisted of damaged bronze images of well-known type. A conversation took place, and the source whence those deceptions proceeded would appear now to be well ascertained. The Rev. Mr. Bagot laid before the Society a Feretrum of Latten, upon which Mr. Syer Cuming read a short paper. Mr. Black and others examined the inscription closely, but from the mode of execution it was not readily to be understood. It appeared to read CONFINI—MAGNI MADOCUS. It belongs to the latter part of the fourteenth or beginning of the fifteenth century. It will be engraved. Mr. Wakeman, Dr. Iliff, and Mr. Halliwell presented various tradesmen's tokens, belonging to various counties, lists of which will be published. Among them was one of great rarity, a small brass of 'the Bore's Head in Southwark,' which formed a property given by Sir John Falstaff to Magdalen College, Oxford. A paper from Mr. Bateman, of Zolgrave, was read, detailing the particulars of a discovery of Saxon graves at Winster, in Derbyshire. Drawings of the spear-

head, porcelain ring, querns, heads, &c., were exhibited. They will be engraved. Mr. Carrington, through Mr. Planché, communicated some remarks on the derivation of the name of Coward, and deduced it from an occupation in former days of much importance, *conherd*—having charge of the cattle. Mr. Vere Irving read an additional paper on the Cissbury and other camps, and Mr. Collins forwarded a communication on, and a plan of, Ruborough Camp, in Somersetshire, which has hitherto escaped the notice of the Somersetshire historians and antiquaries. It presents an example of the *Castra Trigona* of Vegetius. From the drawings sent by Mr. Collins it was evident that the earthwork had been constructed in strict accordance with the rules laid down in the treatise *De Re Militari*, and that its peculiar form had been adopted by reason of the natural features of the site.

**ANTIQUARIES.**—Nov. 27th.—Jos. Hunter Esq., V.-P., in the chair. A letter from Mr. Franks was read accompanying the exhibition of forgeries of flint arrow-heads, said to be the production of a man who lives on the moors near the coast, in the East Riding of Yorkshire. The ingenuity of the fabricator had not been confined to objects of this description; it had extended to the forging of stone hatchet heads, flint combs, fish-hooks, and other articles. The manufacture of jet seals had for the present ceased, the forgers having outraged credulity by fabricating seals of Constantine the Great and Richard Cœur de Lion! Mr. Heywood, M.P., stated that vases in imitation of the antique were at this time made in Staffordshire. He had recently purchased some for the ornament of his library, and was asked by the vendors if he would like them prepared, by obliterating, by the application of acid, a part of the design, for they were in the habit of doing so with the specimens they exported to Italy. Mr. Edward Hawkins, in reference to the forgeries in flint, observed that they had successfully imposed on Mr. Thomas Wright, who had written a tract on the subject of their supposed antiquity—a copy of that tract he saw on the Society's table, and it was very plain to him that the objects engraved in it were identical with the forgeries now exhibited. Mr. Akerman read an account of his excavations in Anglo-Saxon cemeteries at Filkins and at Broughton, on the western border of Oxfordshire, during the vacation. At Broughton but one grave was discovered, the ground having been quarried for stone, when eleven bodies were disturbed, and the accompanying relics dispersed by the finders. The grave found by Mr. Akerman was barely six inches below the surface of the soil, clearly showing that it had once been covered by a tumulus of considerable size. At Filkins, from which Broughton is divided by a stream, he had found eleven bodies, most of them accompanied by their characteristic arms, implements, and ornaments. Both the cemeteries were situated near fine springs of water, localities once held in superstitious veneration by our heathen forefathers. A communication was read from Mr. Beldam, comprising an account of his explorations of some very curious excavations in the chalk-hills near Royston, one of them probably designed for a dwelling, the other being intended for sepulchral purposes. In the latter a Romanum was discovered.

**ROYAL INSTITUTION.**—General Monthly Meeting. —Dec. 1st.—William Pole, Esq., M.A., F.R.S., Treasurer and Vice-President, in the chair. Charles Freshfield, Esq., Junius Morgan, Esq., and James Plaisted Wilde, Esq., M.A., Q.C., were elected Members. The Secretary reported that the following arrangements had been made for the lectures before Easter, 1857:—Six lectures on Attraction (adapted to a juvenile auditory), by Michael Faraday, Esq., D.C.L., F.R.S., &c., Fullerton Professor of Chemistry. Twelve lectures on Physiology and Comparative Anatomy—viz., eight lectures on Sensation and Motion, and four lectures on the Principles of Natural History, by Thomas Henry Huxley, Esq., F.R.S., Fullerton Professor

of Physiology. Eleven lectures on Sound, by John Tyndall, Esq., F.R.S., Professor of Natural Philosophy; and ten lectures on Leading Questions in Geology, by John Phillips, Esq., F.R.S.

**ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE.**—Nov. 26th.—Benjamin Austin, Esq., in the chair. The following gentlemen were elected members of the Society:—the Earl of Durham, John Anderson Rose, Esq., E. G. Squier, Esq., Edwin Hatch, Esq. Mr. Hogg read a paper 'On Kertch, its larger Tumuli and other remains,' chiefly from the researches of Lieut. Thompson, 48th Regt. Madras Native Infantry. The paper was accompanied with some excellent drawings of Kertch and its environs, together with the tumuli, which Mr. Thompson himself opened. The principal monument appears to have stood in what was once a vineyard; it is a tumulus of an oval form, containing a chamber carefully constructed of overlapping stones, with a shaft which passed upwards through the centre of the flat top. The walls were overlaid by a very hard dark-coloured cement; the entrance, which was broken, seems to have been forced open in ancient times. From the peculiar form of this tumulus, Lieut. Thompson conjectures that anciently it was supported by terraces. Among other objects he found, were the bottoms of several large jars, which were found to contain the crusted residue of wine. This discovery tends to confirm those of Dr. Macpherson in the same neighbourhood. The largest tumulus was on the plains adjacent to the town; the interior chamber of this tumulus was very perfect, square at the base, and gradually rounded by cutting off the angles towards the top. It was about fourteen feet square at the base, and about nineteen feet in height.

**CIVIL ENGINEERS.**—Dec. 2nd.—Joseph Locke, Esq., M.P., Vice-President, in the chair. The following candidates were elected:—Messrs. C. Cheyne, H. Conybeare, S. Dobson, and J. Ramsden, as Members; and Messrs. S. B. Boulton, J. Cameron, J. Curran, C. A. Hartley, J. W. Heinke, A. G. Linn, E. Price, W. M. Shaw, A. Siebe, and A. R. Terry, as Associates. The paper read was 'On Recent Improvements in Water Meters,' by Mr. T. T. Jopling. After alluding to the generic merits and defects of piston and bucket meters,—merits which were generally appreciated, and defects which were apparently inseparable from these machines, and had only as yet been partially removed,—the Author proceeded to describe a Meter constructed on the piston, or diaphragm principle, which appeared to meet the objections hitherto made to that class of meter. Models of Jopling's, Kennedy's, Siemens', and Chadwick's meters were exhibited in action during the evening.

**CHEMICAL.**—Dec. 1st.—Dr. Williamson, F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. William Baker, Esq., was elected a Fellow. Mr. B. Williamson read a paper 'On Compounds obtained by the Action of Anhydrous Sulphuric Acid upon the Chlorides of Hydrogen, Ethyl, and Methyl.' The author showed that the first of these compounds was identical with bodies which Rose and Dr. Williamson had previously obtained by different processes, and associated with this compound several bodies hitherto considered anomalous. Mr. F. B. Lockwood read a paper 'On the Action of Bichloride of Carbon upon Ethylate of Potash.' Mr. R. Adie read a paper 'On some Thermo-electric Properties of the Metals Bismuth and Antimony.'

**ZOOLOGICAL.**—Dec. 4th.—J. S. Gaskoin, Esq., in the chair. Messrs. J. Dillon, A. Pegler, and R. Emery, were elected Fellows. The report of the Council stated that the visitors to the gardens presented an increase of numbers amounting to nearly 27,000, and that the new Fellows elected and proposed within the current year were 89, presenting also a considerable improvement upon

the year 1855. The list of donations included a pair of king vultures, presented by his Majesty the King of Portugal; and a fine pair of the Chilian black-necked swan, presented by Captain the Hon. E. A. Harris, R.N., Her Majesty's Consul-General in that country.

**SOCIETY OF ARTS.**—Dec. 3rd.—Henry Blundell, Esq., in the chair. Eighty-two new members were elected. The paper read was by Mr. Christopher Binks, 'On some New Methods of dealing with Linseed and other Oils, for Improving their Drying Properties in their Application to Paints and Varnishes.'

#### MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

**Monday.**—Geographical, 8½ p.m.—(1. Papers of Dr. Livingstone on his Return to England from Africa. 2. On the Determination of the River "Eulause" of Greek Historians, by Wm. Kennett Loftus, Esq. 3. Extracts from a Journal of the North Australian Expedition, by Mr. J. S. Wilson, the Geologist; communicated by Sir Roderick I. Murchison.)  
**Royal Academy,** 8 p.m.—(Professor Partridge on Anatomy.)  
**Tuesday.**—Medical and Chemical, 8½ p.m.  
**Civil Engineers,** 8 p.m.—(Mr. W. Bell on the Laws of the Strength of Wrought and Cast Iron.)  
**Syrio-Egyptian,** 7½ p.m.—(The Rev. Dr. Hewlett on the Botany of Egypt as illustrated in the Ancient Scriptures and Paintings.)  
**Zoological,** 9 p.m.—(1. Prof. Owen, F.R.S., on the Anatomy of the Great Ant-Eater. Part II. On the Smaller Species of Bornean Orang, *Simia morio*. 2. Mr. Hodgson and Dr. Horsfield on the Mammalia of Nepal, Sikim, and Thet.)  
**Sir John Richardson, C.B., F.R.S.,** on some Fish from Asia Minor and Palestine.)  
**Wednesday.**—Society of Arts, 8 p.m.—(Mr. W. Fothergill Cooke on the Utilization of the Sewage of Towns by the Deodorizing Process established at Leicester, and the Economical Application of it to the Metropolis.)  
**Graphic,** 8 p.m.  
**Microscopical,** 8 p.m.  
**Ethnological,** 8½ p.m.—(C. D. Toime, Esq., on the Indians of Iltivacan on the Altos of Guatemala.)  
**S. S. Literature,** 4½ p.m.  
**Archæological Association,** 8½ p.m.—(Mr. Syer Cumling on Celtic Crania found in the Vicinity of London. Rev. E. Kell on the Ancient Site of Southampton, and on the Sculptured Stones at Clausentum.)  
**Thursday.**—Royal, 8½ p.m.  
**Antiquaries,** 8 p.m.  
**Philosophical Club,** 8½ p.m.  
**Friday.**—Astronomical, 8 p.m.  
**Archæological Association,** 8 p.m.—(A paper by H. T. Brailhwaite, Esq.)  
**Saturday.**—Medical, 8 p.m.  
**Botanic,** 4 p.m.

#### VARITIES.

*A Relic of Bothwell.*—Among some books sold in Edinburgh, at Mr. Nisbet's auction rooms, last week, was a folio which had belonged to Bothwell, the husband of Mary Queen of Scots. It is a copy of a mathematical work printed in Paris in 1538, 'L'Arithmétique et Géométrie de Maître Etienne de la Roche.' There was a spirited competition for this interesting relic, and it was knocked down to Mr. Gibson Craig for thirteen guineas.—*Scotsman.*

On the 27th August the prizes and diplomas of merit awarded to exhibitors from Jamaica, at the Paris Universal Exhibition, were distributed publicly at the Court House, Kingston, with much ceremony, by His Excellency the Governor of the Island, Major-General Bell. The awards were for specimens of the vegetable products of the island, and for improvements in the manufacture of rum. A full report of the proceedings appears in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Arts of Jamaica, by the exertions of which association the collections were chiefly procured for transmission to Paris.

**TO CORRESPONDENTS.**—M. M., R. A., L. T. T., R. E., J. C. S.—received.

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